



Membership of Committees – Appointment of a new Vice-Chairman of Area West Committee and notification of vacancy on the Audit Committee

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Purpose of the Report

1. To confirm a new Vice Chairman for the Area West Committee and to notify Members of a vacancy on the Audit Committee membership.

Public Interest

2. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020.

Regulation 4 states:-

Meetings of local authorities

- 4.—(1) *In respect of a reference in any enactment to a meeting of a local authority, that authority may, as they may determine—*
 - (a) *hold such meetings and at such hour and on such days; and*
 - (b) *alter the frequency, move or cancel such meetings, without requirement for further notice.*
- (2) *Where an appointment would otherwise be made or require to be made at an annual meeting of a local authority, such appointment continues until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine.*
3. This allowed appointments normally made at an annual meeting to be continued until the next annual meeting or until such time as the authority determined.
4. For the continued safety of Councillors and staff, it was agreed to postpone the SSDC Annual Council meeting in May 2020 until such time as it was safe to call a meeting in person again. However due to a resignation, there is a need to appoint a new Vice Chairman for Area West Committee and a new member to the Audit Committee.



Recommendations

5. In accordance with Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated, the Council confirm that:-
 - a. Councillor Brian Hamilton be appointed as Vice Chairman of Area West Committee to replace Councillor Robin Pailthorpe for the remainder of the Council year.
 - b. A Councillor be appointed to the Audit Committee to replace Councillor Robin Pailthorpe for the remainder of the Council year

Background

6. Councillor Robin Pailthorpe has confirmed his intention to step down as Vice Chairman of Area West Committee and as a member of the Audit Committee. This report seeks to appoint new Councillors to these two roles.

Report Detail

7. The membership of committees and working groups for 2019/20 was approved at the Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2019. It was agreed to continue those appointments for 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 meeting restrictions. Since then, the Liberal Democrat group have indicated that Brian Hamilton will replace Robin Pailthorpe as Vice Chairman of the Area West Committee. There is also a vacancy on the Audit Committee to be appointed. This report seeks to confirm these appointments.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications other than the transfer of the Vice-Chairman allowance to the newly appointed Councillor.

Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

9. Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 details the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated.

Council Plan Implications

10. Council Value:
 - Empowering dedicated and flexible employees and elected members focussed on delivery



South Somerset

District Council

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

11. None

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. None

Privacy Impact Assessment

13. No implications

Background Papers

14. Minutes of Council – 21st May 2019, 20th June 2019, 18th July 2019, 19th September 2019, 19th December 2019, 19th February 2020. 15th October 2020.