

Nottinghamshire County Council
Section 115 Local Government Act 2003
Scheme for the co-option of members to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees

1. Definitions

- 1.1. The Council: Nottinghamshire County Council
- 1.2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee: a committee appointed pursuant to section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000
- 1.3. Co-opted Member: a member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee who is not a member of the Council

2. Background

- 2.1. The Council would like to draw on the experience and knowledge of people within Nottinghamshire when undertaking its scrutiny function. There are a number of benefits to giving such co-opted members voting rights. These include:
 - 2.1.1. Encouraging a sense of ownership and therefore more involvement by co-opted members in debates before a Scrutiny Committee
 - 2.1.2. Allowing non-elected Members of the public a more active voice in scrutiny
 - 2.1.3. Inclusivity in the decision making process of all who have contributed to a scrutiny process both elected and non-elected members
 - 2.1.4. Improved quality of decision making by including broader based issues and views
 - 2.1.5. A pseudo "partnership" approach to scrutiny decision making in line with the Governments "Partnership agenda"
- 2.2. There are also circumstances where co-opting non-voting Members also adds value to the scrutiny process.

3. Practically

- 3.1. To allow for pro-active and dynamic scrutiny it is proposed to retain a pool of co-opted members at any one time with knowledge and expertise in one or more of the following Local Area Agreement themes:
 - 3.1.1. Safer Stronger Sustainable Communities
 - 3.1.2. Health and Older People
 - 3.1.3. Young People and Children
 - 3.1.4. Economic Development and Enterprise
- 3.2. An Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Ad Hoc Committee can draw on this pool of co-opted member as and when necessary and formally appoint the

co-opted member to sit on the committee in either a voting or non-voting capacity.

- 3.3.** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or the Ad Hoc Select Committee as the case may be, shall follow a transparent selection and appointment process in accordance with the advice given by the Monitoring Officer.

Voting Protocol of the Scheme

To recognise the overarching importance of the elected accountability of Council Members the following Voting Protocol will be observed

1. The total number of voting co-opted members on any Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
2. Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is considering wholly or partly educational matters no additional voting co-opted members will be appointed.
3. Co-opted members will be exercise their voting rights in accordance with the Principles of Decision Making set out in the Constitution namely:
 - proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
 - due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
 - respect for human rights;
 - presumption in favour of openness;
 - clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and
 - clarity of options considered and reasons for decision

General Principles

1. This Scheme and arrangements made in accordance with its terms shall be reviewed by the County Council at the Annual General Meeting.
2. Co-opted members will be subject to the Members Code of Conduct and must sign a declaration of office and complete a Register entry of any relevant interests.
3. Co-opted members will be entitled to an allowance and/or reimbursement of their reasonable expenses in accordance with the Nottinghamshire County Council Members Allowances Scheme.