



4th September 2012

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BUSINESS COMMUNITY CO-OPTION

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Committee of the response received to the sourcing of a business community co-option to this Committee; to refer members to an Exempt Appendix to this report; and to propose the appointment of business community co-options to the Committee.

Information and Advice

2. Some information relating to this report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph xx of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Having regard to all the circumstances, on balance, the right to privacy of the individuals concerned outweighs the public interest in making the information available. The exempt information is therefore set out in the Exempt Appendix. When appointments are complete information regarding the appointee(s) will be made public.
3. At the June 2012 meeting of this Committee, it was agreed that a business community co-option to this Committee be sought, and set out the means whereby it could be achieved.
4. Following this approval, contact was made with a wide range of businesses and business-led membership organisations across the County, seeking nominations. This took the form of a letter, confirming the nature of the role and the expectations of the co-option. As a consequence, two expressions of interest have been received from the Federation of Small Business and Boots.
5. Details of the two individuals are offered as an Exempt Appendix. There appears to be no barrier to the Committee seeking both as co-optees as each could offer unique insight to the Committee's considerations from very different perspectives – that of small businesses and from a large major multi-national employer. It is proposed therefore both individuals are appointed as Business Community co-options to the Committee.

Other Options Considered

6. There are two options open to the Committee as follows:
 - Make a judgement in selecting one co-optee at the Committee meeting on the basis of the information attached;
 - Formally interview both candidates via the Committee or via a panel drawn from its members and make an appointment accordingly.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The report seeks the Committee's views on securing the agreed business perspective to its considerations. It is proposed that any appointment be subject to a review over the initial year and thereafter to an annual review and evaluation of the position generally.
8. In addition, advice has been received which confirms that co-options to the Committee requires ratification by Council and the recommendation reflects this.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising as a consequence of this report.

Equalities Implications

The process adopted for securing the co-option afforded a transparent means of securing participation. It is understood that neither of the potential appointees have any particular needs to facilitate their participation, but this will be the subject of review.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- (a) the information in the Exempt Appendix is noted
- (b) the appointment of both individuals as Business Community co-options to the Committee is agreed, subject to ratification by Council.

Report of the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Geoff George ext 72046

Constitutional Comments SLB 23/8/12

10. Economic Development Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. Full Council is responsible for determining the membership of Committees.

Financial Comments (DJK 23.08.2012)

11. The contents of this report are duly noted; as stated there are no direct financial implications arising.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All