

26 June 2012

Agenda Item:

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the merits of a co-opted seat to the Economic Development Committee from the Nottinghamshire business community and if agreed, to consider the means by which this can be secured.

Information and Advice

2. The Economic Development Committee's Terms of Reference and the report on this meeting's agenda on the Economic Development services and budget illustrates the close connectivity with Nottinghamshire business and the need to be responsive to local business issues.
3. The Chairman of this Committee, Councillor Girling is both the County Council's Business Engagement Champion and Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group (NBEG) itself comprising most County-based business clubs and federations and is therefore well-placed to offer insight from its meetings to this Committee. In addition, many Members run or are in senior positions within local businesses. However, it is considered the Committee would benefit from additional co-opted support from a local business leader.
4. The proposed role will be non-voting and will :
 - Offer a business perspective to the Committee's considerations and work plan;
 - Act as a critical friend regarding the potential impact of a County Council project or activity on the Nottinghamshire business community;
 - Champion the Council's Economic Development activity both where it acts alone or in partnership with others.
5. The role suggests the Committee seeks someone from a Nottinghamshire-based business or representative group with experience of working with the public sector; of engaging with different types and sizes of businesses and of networking at a senior level. Should the Committee agree to this, consideration should be given to the means of fulfilling the co-option. There are a number routes through which a co-option can be promoted and it is proposed that this opportunity is promoted widely, seeking nominations. Offering this opportunity over forthcoming

weeks will allow nominations to be secured for consideration and for the co-option to be agreed, potentially in time for the September Committee meeting.

Other Options Considered

6. The Committee may chose not to agree a co-option from the business community.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The report seeks the Committee's view on securing a business perspective to its considerations and offers a suggested means of securing this through due process.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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. This may require further consideration should it be proposed that expenses or an honorarium be paid to any co-opted individual.

Equalities Implications

The suggested process for consideration by the Committee offers a transparent means of securing participation. Should the co-optee have any particular needs to facilitate their participation, these will be considered at the time.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee agrees the proposal to co-opt a member of the Nottinghamshire business community to this Committee and the process by which this can be achieved.

Report of the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee

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

Constitutional Comments (SLB 18/06/2012)

9. Economic Development Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report.

Financial Comments (MB 15th June12)

10. As noted above, there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. If expenses or honoraria are subsequently agreed, they will need to be contained within existing Committee budgets.

Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All