

Part A

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: Monday, 17 October 2022

Report author: Democratic Services Manager

Title: Appointment of Chair to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.0 Summary

1.1 Council is requested to approve the appointment of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee as detailed below.

1.2 In addition, Council is asked to approve the change of appointment for the Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Appointment to HCC Health Scrutiny Committee is not agreed	Watford Borough Council would not be represented on the Health Scrutiny Committee and not be involved in scrutinising health services that affect Watford residents.	Council approves the nominated councillor.	Treat	1

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 that Councillor Tom Osborn be appointed as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of 2022/23 or until Councillor Simon Feldman returns.

3.2 that Councillor Tom Osborn be appointed to the Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of 2022/23 or until Councillor Simon Feldman returns.

Further information:

Sandra Hancock
sandra.hancock@watford.gov.uk
Tel: 01923 278377

Report approved by: Carol Chen, Group Head of Democracy and Governance

4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 At Annual Council on 24 May 2022 Council agreed the appointment of Councillor Simon Feldman as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and as the council's representative to the Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 At the end of July Democratic Services was informed that Councillor Feldman needed to take a period of extended leave in accordance with the Members' Leave Policy which was approved by Council at its meeting on 24 January 2022. It is currently not yet known when Councillor Feldman will be able to return. Officers are in regular contact with Councillor Pattinson, the Liberal Democrat Group Leader, to ensure they are aware of the latest position.
- 4.3 At Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 September 2022 it had been agreed that Councillor Osborn would chair that particular meeting in the absence of Councillor Feldman. However, Council is required to appoint members to the position formally. In accordance with the leave policy both Councillors Feldman and Osborn are entitled to receive the Special Responsibility Allowance that is attached to the role of Chair.
- 4.4 The appointment to the Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee requires the council's representative to be a member of one of the council's scrutiny committees, therefore they would not be a member of the Executive. In addition, the appointed representative must not be employed by the County Council or have any other conflict of interest, for example employed by one of the health trust's scrutinised by the Health Scrutiny Committee. Officers have contacted Councillor Osborn for confirmation he has no interest. It has been agreed that Councillor Osborn will attend the next Health Scrutiny Committee as a substitute for Councillor Feldman, as it was due to take place prior to Council. Council is required to formally appoint the council's representative.
- 4.5 Council is therefore requested to formally appoint Councillor Tom Osborn to the role of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and as the council's representative on the Hertfordshire County Council health Scrutiny Committee.

5.0 Implications

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.2 Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that appointments to chairs and vice chairs of committees and council appointed outside bodies is done by council. Failure to appoint a replacement for Councillor Feldman would mean the vice chair chairing overview and scrutiny committee until his return.

Appendices

None

Background papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

- Members Leave Policy
- Establishment of Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs report to Council on 24 May 2022
- Appointment of representatives of the Council on outside organisations 2022/23 report and appendix
- Emails