



ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Joint Audit and Governance Committee
28th May 2024

Ward(s) Affected: Cokeham, Peverel, Churchill,
Manor, Mash Barn & Widewater

Joint Audit & Governance Committee Appointments: Parish Councillors

Report by the Monitoring Officer

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report advises Members of the Joint Audit & Governance Committee of the nominations from Lancing Parish Council and Sompting Parish Council for Parish representatives to be appointed to the Joint Audit & Governance Committee as co-opted Members in accordance with the Constitution.

2. Recommendations

Members of the Joint Audit & Governance Committee are asked to:

2.1 Note the nomination from Lancing Parish Council of the appointment of Cllr Liz Hayward as a Co-Opted Member of the Joint Audit & Governance Committee for 24/25 and recommend the appointment to Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council;

2.2 Note the nomination from Sompting Parish Council of the appointment of Cllr Tim Hicks as a Co-opted Member of the Joint Audit & Governance Committee for 24/25 and recommend the appointment to Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

3. Background

3.1 The Joint Audit & Governance Committee is a Committee of the Council governed by the Joint Committee Agreement between Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council. It is established by section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

3.2 Within the terms of reference of the Joint Audit & Governance Committee are

- Standards, ethics and probity;
- Audit and accounts activity; and
- The constitutional framework

3.3 The Joint Audit & Governance Committee consists of:

- 16 Elected Members (8 from Adur District Council and 8 from Worthing Borough Council);
- Up to 3 Independent Persons co-opted onto the Committee;
- One Member of Lancing Parish Council co-opted when considering Parish Council matters; and
- One Member of Sompting Parish Council co-opted when considering Parish Council matters.

3.4 The role of the Parish Councillors on the Joint Audit & Governance Committee is two fold. Firstly, their role is to advise the full Committee, when it is considering Parish matters. Secondly, their role is to advise the Committee (or its Sub-Committee) when hearing and determining an allegation that a Parish Councillor has breached their Parish Council Code of Conduct. In respect of the second aspect of their role, if a Lancing Parish Councillor is the Subject Member of a standards complaint being heard by a Sub Committee, a Sompting Parish Councillor will be invited to sit on the Sub Committee that hears and determines the allegation; and vice versa.

- 3.5 Both Parish Councillors appointed to the Joint Audit & Governance Committee will be non-voting co-opted Members of the Committee, acting in an advisory capacity to the Committee or its Sub Committee.
- 3.6 Parish Councillors are nominated by the Parish for the appointment, which is considered by the Joint Audit & Governance Committee. Should the Joint Audit & Governance Committee support their appointment, they will be invited to make appropriate recommendations to each full Council. The appointments must be made by Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 Lancing Parish Council have nominated Parish Councillor Liz Hayward to be appointed the Lancing Parish Councillor co-opted Member of the Adur and Worthing Joint Audit & Governance Committee.
- 4.2 Sompting Parish Council have nominated Parish Councillor Tim Hicks to be appointed the Sompting Parish Councillor co-opted Member of the Adur and Worthing Joint Audit & Governance Committee.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with both Lancing Parish Council and Sompting Parish Council.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Part 3 of the Constitution sets out the terms of reference for the Joint Audit & Governance Committee, paragraph (e) confirms that "The Joint Committee shall also co-opt one Member of Lancing Parish Council and one Member of Sompting Parish Council to advise the Committee on Parish matters when considering such matters".
- 7.2 The Council's Member Complaints and Standards Sub-Committee Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution set out the arrangements adopted by the Councils when dealing with allegations regarding a breach of the Code of Conduct and states at paragraph 2.7 "Parish Representative means a Parish Councillor appointed by the Council to advise the Joint Audit & Governance

Committee and its Sub-Committee in relation to cases involving Parish Councillors”.

7.3 The Joint Audit & Governance Committee is established in accordance with section 101 Local Government Act 1972 and is governed by the Joint Committee Agreement in Part 9 of the Constitution.

7.4 Standards matters for both Councils are governed by the Complaints and Standards Sub-Committee Procedure Rules adopted by both Councils which comply with sections 26-37 of the Localism Act 2011.

Background Papers

- Worthing Borough Council Constitution
- Adur District Council Constitution
- Localism Act 2011

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no issues identified

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and no issues identified

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no issues identified

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no issues identified

4. Governance

These appointments are in accordance with the Constitutions, adopted to uphold high and robust standards of governance throughout the Councils.