



PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 13th January 2020

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

In accordance with the protocol established as the framework for the operation of joint health scrutiny arrangements across the local authorities of Cheshire and Merseyside, the Partnerships Committee is requested to nominate Members to sit on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

The protocol stipulates that each participating local authority should ensure that those Councillors it nominates to a joint health overview and scrutiny committee reflect its own political balance. However, overall political balance requirements may be waived with the agreement of all participating local authorities.

Depending on the issue to be scrutinised, meetings will be attended by either 2 or 3 Members (see section 6.3.2 of the protocol attached at Appendix 1).

In this instance there is a need to appoint three Members, in which case in order to meet the political balance requirements three Members should be appointed as follows:

Labour: 2

Conservative: 1

Should the meeting of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee only require attendance by two Members, then only one Labour Member will be required to attend along with one Conservative Member.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Partnerships Committee is requested to appoint three members to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the political balance requirements.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To ensure that Members of Wirral Council are represented on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 As a result of the need to make the appointments, no further options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 came into effect on 1 April 2013 revising existing legislation regarding health scrutiny.
- 3.2 Ultimately the regulations place a requirement on relevant scrutiny authorities to reach a view on whether they are satisfied that any proposal that is deemed to be a substantial development or variation is in the interests of the health service in that area, or instead, that the proposal should be referred to the Secretary of State for Health. Where such proposals impact on more than one local authority area, each authority's health scrutiny arrangements must consider whether the proposals constitute a substantial development or variation or not. The regulations place a requirement on those local authorities that agree that a proposal is substantial to establish, in each instance, a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of considering it. As a result a protocol has been established to deal with the proposed operation of such arrangements for the local authorities of Cheshire and Merseyside and is attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.3 The protocol further details the role of the Joint Committee, its powers and how the Membership is constituted. The role is also further outlined under Part 3, Section B – Partnerships Committee (Section 9.4 *Joint Health Scrutiny Committee*)

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Appointment to the Joint Scrutiny Committee does not include entitlement to a Special Responsibility Allowance but travel and subsistence is covered by the Members' Allowances Scheme.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications to staffing, ICT or Assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 By not appointing Members to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, the views of Wirral Council and its residents will not be represented.

8.1 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 This report requires Members to make an appointment and as such there are no direct equality Implications.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct environment and climate implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Protocol For Establishment Of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements For
Cheshire And Merseyside

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral & Cheshire West Joint Health Scrutiny Committee	11 December 2018