



<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Agenda Item
<b>18 September 2023</b>	<b>12</b>

Title:	Appointment of Rapporteurs to Thematic Committees
Report of:	Anne Gardiner, Governance Manager & Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Lead Member:	Edna Murphy – Lead Member for Governance
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	N/A
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members

<b>Recommendations:</b>	
A	Nominate and appoint members to the Rapporteur roles for the Transport & Infrastructure Committee and the Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee.
B	Ratify the appointments agreed at the informal meeting on 30 August 2023 for the Rapporteurs for the Skills & Employment Committee.

<b>Strategic Objective(s):</b>	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities
	Achieving Best Value and High Performance

Appointing rapporteurs to shadow the work of the thematic committees plays a key role in driving the new ways of working and enhancing the Overview & Scrutiny function which is a key ambition from the ongoing improvement framework of the Combined Authority. A healthy, capable and supported Overview & Scrutiny functionality will drive accountability and improve the effectiveness of decision-making within the Combined Authority, which in turn will contribute to driving enhanced delivery and performance.

The Combined Authority is committed to implementing a positive governance culture in all that it does, building upon significant improvements already delivered in response to previously identified governance shortcomings as it seeks to build the foundations for a healthy regional democracy. This involves improving awareness, opportunity and accountability to the public through the Overview & Scrutiny function.

## 1. Purpose

1.1	The report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with further details regarding the Rapporteur Lead Roles and requests that the committee considers nominations to appoint as the Scrutiny Rapporteurs for each of the Combined Authority Thematic Committees.
1.2	The report requests that the Committee ratify the appointments made to the Skills and Employment Committee at the informal session on 30 August 2023.

## 2. Proposal

2.1	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to adopt new ways of working and a new approach to implementing the Overview & Scrutiny function at the Combined Authority at its meeting on 19 June 2023: this followed consideration of a number of options over the course of several meetings and supported through Member workshops.
2.2	The committee selected Option A which included the development of the existing Rapporteur roles to shadow the Combined Authority Thematic Committees to help enhance the ways of working between Board and Thematic Committees and the Scrutiny function and help to develop opportunities for early scrutiny involvement in key decision making and strategy development.
2.3	The appointment to Rapporteur roles for each of the Combined Authority Thematic Committees will play a key role in driving these new ways of working: once appointments have been made it is suggested that Rapporteurs meet with the Chairs of the Thematic Committees to discuss how they can best support each other.
2.4	Both members and substitute members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are invited to put themselves forward for a Rapporteur role. This acknowledges the additional call on members' time in taking on additional work for the Committee and recognises that substitutes may have greater capacity than a main member. Detail on time commitments is included within the job role description at Appendix 1. If a substitute member is appointed as Rapporteur, they would be able to attend meetings to provide feedback on items they have reviewed. They would only have full voting rights if they were at the committee meeting as a substitute in the absence of the main member.

## 3. Background

3.1	At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny on 19 June 2023, the members agreed to support the implementation of Option A which would create a new strategic focus for the Committee supported by informal planning meetings and the commissioning of deep dive reviews.
3.2	At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny on 24 July 2023, due to the high number of substitutes present the Committee agreed to defer the decision of appointing the rapporteurs until they next met informally on 30 August 2023. At that informal meeting, Cllr Coles and Cllr Rippeth were appointed as the Rapporteurs for the Skills and Employment Committee; these appointments need to be ratified at the public meeting.
3.3	Rapporteurs for the Transport and Infrastructure Committee and the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee were not made at the informal session as there were no expressions of interest made and members present requested that further detail on the rapporteur roles be brought to the September meeting.

## 4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A - Rapporteur Job Description
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## 5. Implications

### Financial Implications

5.1	Appointment of rapporteurs as part of the delivery of the scrutiny function is unlikely to impact significantly on the Combined Authority's finances.
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### Legal Implications

6.1	The importance and legitimacy that scrutiny is afforded by the law should be recognised. Overview and Scrutiny was created to act as a check and balance on the executive and is a statutory requirement for all combined authorities.
6.2	Although the existence of the function is set out in legislation, how it operates and how it is structured is left to individual Local Authorities. This provides for a high degree of flexibility and the ability to consider different topics and issues in the most appropriate way.

### Public Health Implications

7.1	There are no public health implications set out within the content of this report, although it should be noted that the new approach to delivering the scrutiny function is intended to contribute to effective decision-making and drive accountability, performance and delivery across all of the Combined Authority remit.
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### Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	There are no environmental and climate change implications set out within the content of this report, although it should be noted that the new approach to delivering the scrutiny function is intended to contribute to effective decision-making and drive accountability, performance and delivery across all of the Combined Authority remit.
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### Other Significant Implications

9.1	There are no other significant implications set out in the content of this report.
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### Background Papers

10.1	March 2023 Overview & Scrutiny Committee: <a href="#">O&amp;S Meeting – March 2023</a>
10.2	June 2023 Overview & Scrutiny Committee: <a href="#">O&amp;S Meeting – June 2023</a>
10.3	July 2023 Overview & Scrutiny Committee: <a href="#">O&amp;S Meeting – July 2023</a>