

**Divisions Affected – all**

# **Oxfordshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

**9 June 2022**

## **CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – EXTENSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS TO TENURE**

**Report of the Director of Law & Governance**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: -**
  - a) To agree to renew Mrs Barbara Shaw's term for a further 2 years (from the point in which her initial term expired) concluding in April 2023.
  - b) To note that Dr Alan Cohen will have served two maximum terms and will therefore leave the Committee in August 2022.
  - c) To place on record the Committee's thanks to Dr Cohen for his dedication and contributions to this Committee.
  - d) The Committee agrees to undertake a recruitment exercise to fill the vacancy with a view to ensuring that the co-opted member is present at HOSC on 22 September.
  - e) That the Committee considers the composition of its co-opted member cohort and assures itself that it reflects the needs of the Committee, its work programme and the diversity of the people of Oxfordshire.

### **Context**

- 1.1 The Council' Constitution allows for up to three co-opted members to sit on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) and Co-opted Members shall normally serve for a period of 2 years. Co-opted members may serve for one further consecutive period of 2 years. This paper outlines the current status of two of those co-opted members and decisions to be made.
- 1.2 Mrs Barbara Shaw was appointed to the Committee in April 2019 and her two-year term expired in April 2021.
- 1.3 Mrs Shaw has drawn on her experience and understanding of the health service in her capacity as a former Citizens Advice Chief Executive. As a result, it is proposed that the Committee extend her term from the original date of expiry for a further two years. To that end, Mrs Shaw's

tenure on the JHOSC will expire in April 2023. However, Mrs Shaw is able to reapply for the role.

- 1.4 Dr Alan Cohen was appointed in June 2017 and has served over two terms on the Joint Committee. His term expires in August 2022 and therefore, in line with the Constitution, Dr Cohen will cease to be a member of the JHOSC at that point. However, Dr Cohen is able to re-apply for the role as part of an open and fair recruitment process.
- 1.5 This creates a vacancy on the Committee to be filled in line with the guidance enclosed at **Appendix A**.
- 1.6 Before commencing a recruitment campaign, Members may wish to consider the existing composition of its co-opted member cohort with a view to targeting recruitment to those with a specific background, protected characteristic or additional experiences, beyond that of a sound working knowledge of health and social care, to add maximum value to the Committee.
- 1.7 It should also be noted that, subject to the agreement of recommendation 1.2, further external recruitment would need to take place when Mrs Shaw's tenure expires in late April 2023. As previously stated, Mrs Shaw will be able to reapply for the role.
- 1.8 It should also be noted that Mrs Jean Bradlow's initial two year term ends in September 2022 and a further paper, similar to this, will be considered at the next meeting.

## 2 Equality Act

- 2.1 Upholding the Equality Act has relevance for this report insofar as it relates to ensuring that any form of recruitment is fair, transparent and has due regard for the principles within the Act.
- 2.2 The Council's equality duties extend to:
  - 2.2.1 Eliminating of discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act;
  - 2.2.2 Advancement of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - 2.2.3 foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 2.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- 2.3.1 remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- 2.3.2 take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

## **Exempt Information**

N/A

## **Corporate Policies and Priorities**

### **Oxfordshire County Council's Strategic Plan agreed to 'supporting an enhanced role for Overview and Scrutiny to contribute to open and transparent decision making' and a clear role for the Council in tackling health inequalities. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Lorna Baxter

[lorna.baxter@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.baxter@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Legal Implications**

The recommendations in this report relate to matters over which the Council has discretion and so they do not give rise to legal implications. Neither Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000 nor The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 contain provisions preventing the renewal of the term of appointment of a co-opted non-voting member of a Health Scrutiny Committee or specifying the background or experience that co-opted members should have

Anita Bradley  
[Anita.Bradley@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Anita.Bradley@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Staff Implications**

None

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

As highlighted, Committee members have an opportunity to shape the composition of the Joint Committee's co-opted members to enhance the diversity of the Committee.

## **Sustainability Implications**

None immediately arising from this report.

## **Risk Management**

Risks associated with not recruiting to the role extend to the Committee not being able to leverage additional perspective to its work programme.

## **Consultations**

Given the personal nature of this report, all three existing co-opted members were consulted on the content of this report.

Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance

Annex:

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Helen Mitchell

[helen.mitchell@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.mitchell@oxfordshire.gov.uk)