

MINUTE OF CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 DECEMBER 2021

42. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FUNCTION REVIEW - MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources as contained on pages 197 to 204 of the Book of Reports, which was to consider the recommendations of the Member Development Commission, following a review of Scrutiny arrangements at West Lancashire Borough Council.

The Democratic Services Manager outlined the report and explained that the Member Development Commission (MDC) compared the Overview & Scrutiny structures of other similar Local Authorities via a questionnaire sent to 28 other Local Authorities.

She also gave a summary of the previously adopted recommendations of the MDC, including Pre-Decision Scrutiny at Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the submission of Questions in advance of meetings.

Comments and Questions were raised in respect of:

- The structure of Task and Finish Groups
- Member's time and involvement.
- Opportunity for members of Public to participate at these.

A Motion, circulated prior to the meeting, was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken the Motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review undertaken by the Member Development Commission on behalf of the Council, previously adopted and implemented set out in paragraph 6 below, be noted, and the recommendations set out in paragraph 7.2 C. (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) be endorsed, subject to the following agreed comments being recommended to Council:

A. That recommendation (iii) be amended to read:

"(iii) That a permanent **allocation of 10 hours per week** at Grade SO1 at 10 hours per week be **assigned** to facilitate this work, **either as a standalone Member Services Officer role or a more substantive role combined with other duties.**

B. That the Task and Finish Groups be established in accordance with paragraph 8 of the report, subject to the approval of the financial implications set out at paragraph 10 of the report and the Membership details being amended a paragraph 8.1 (a) to read:

"(a) Membership:

- 6 Members (3 Lab, 2 Con, 1 OWL) ), **subject to change each year to reflect political makeup and inclusion of Independent councillor(s) as appropriate**
- Additional Members (To be appointed by the Task & Finish Group/Committee if required)
- Co-optees: If required

(Members volunteer to be a member of the group, and selection is made on the members particular interest and expertise in the area being scrutinised. Members not to be restricted to Scrutiny Members, but open to all. Cabinet Members by invitation only.)