

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**

**Report of the Lead Officer and Director of Corporate Resources**

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Invitation to attend meetings**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the invitation of former Members of this Committee to attend meetings and speak for the remainder of the current municipal year.

**Background**

2. Further to the report submitted to the last meeting of the Committee, the Council, at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, approved the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to discontinue the arrangements made hitherto for the composition and membership of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to include the non-statutory, non-elected members and instead establish a pool of specialist/key contacts who can be invited to attend meetings to advise the Committee or give evidence at specific meetings depending on the topics under discussion.
3. In referring to the acknowledgement of this Committee that its focus is wider than educational issues and that the Committee had concerns regarding loss of continuity and the valuable experience of the non-statutory co-opted members, in order to retain continuity and assist with a smooth transition to the revised arrangements, the report to the Council indicated that, as an interim measure, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has the discretion to extend an invitation to the former co-optees to attend meetings for the residue of the current municipal year. An invitation would provide an entitlement to speak. The Committee is now asked to consider this matter.

**Finance**

4. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Invitees would not be entitled to claim expenses.

**Law**

5. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
6. The relevant provisions regarding the appointment of non-elected, voting and non-voting members are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, and associated regulations. Members with a voting entitlement do not affect Committees insofar as proportionality of membership is concerned.

### **Equality Impact**

7. This report complies with the auspices of the Council on Equality and Diversity.

### **Recommendation**

8. That the Committee consider the invitation of the non-statutory former co-optrees for the remainder of the current municipal year.



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**Lead Officer**



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**Director of Corporate Resources**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Minute 24 of the meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 and the report on the matter submitted to the Council.