

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2014
CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION – APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

(Contact: Simon Wright, Tel: (01993) 861533)

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions or recommendations to Cabinet)

1. PURPOSE

To consider the call-in request relating to a Cabinet decision of 18 June 2014 (Minute No 13) in respect of the appointment of representatives to outside bodies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the Committee decides whether or not to support the call-in request; and
- (b) That, if the request is supported, the Committee determines whether it wishes to submit any additional comments to Cabinet.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At the meeting held on 18 June 2014 the Cabinet considered a report seeking the appointment of representatives to a number of outside bodies.
- 3.2. The decision in respect of the appointments to the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee has been the subject of a call-in request from Councillors Mr A S Coles, Mrs L C Carter, Mr D S T Enright, Ms E P R Leffman, Mr G Saul and Mr D A Snow in the following terms:
 - 1) We believe it would best practice and preferable for WODC's representatives on the Witney TAC to either represent a Witney ward or live within the Witney town boundaries. In the event that neither were available then it would be acceptable for a non-Witney councillor to represent the council but that a Witney representative should always be preferable.
 - 2) We believe Cllr Coles's unique working knowledge based on the skills and experiences of working within the transport industry in and around Witney for nearly 10 years would be a considerable asset to the committee and would enhance WODC's representation on the committee.
 - 3) We believe the ruling group have put their party interests ahead of the council's interests and that of the committee but also the residents of Witney in excluding Cllr Coles's application to represent the council on the committee. We believe the council should work in an inclusive manner and adopt a cross-party approach when considering representatives to outside bodies. The skills, knowledge and experiences of individual councillors should be considered ahead of party allegiances.
- 3.3. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules the call-in has been referred by the Chief Executive to this Committee for consideration.

3.4. At the Cabinet it was resolved to appoint Councillors Mr C G Dingwall and Mr A D Harvey to the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

The Committee could agree with the Cabinet's original decision in which case the decision will be implemented immediately. The Committee could support the request or recommend an alternative position to the Cabinet for them to reconsider.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. RISKS

None

7. REASONS

To enable the Committee to consider the matter in light of the call-in and the information provided in the report.

Keith Butler - Head of Democratic Services

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Background Papers:

Report and Minutes of Cabinet meeting – 18 June 2014