

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 February 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Review of Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee
<b>Report of:</b>	Lin O'Brien, Democratic Services Group Manager
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Sara Freckleton, Borough Solicitor
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor R J E Vines
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	One

## **Executive Summary:**

At its meeting on 14 April 2015, the Council resolved that a Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee be introduced for a one year trial period starting with the new term of the Council in May 2015 and so commenced with the Planning Committee in June. It is proposed that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group be established to conduct a review of how the scheme has worked since its introduction in order to make a recommendation to the Council as to whether or not the scheme should continue and, if so, whether any amendments need to be made.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. To establish an Overview and Scrutiny Working Group to review the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee.**
- 2. To APPROVE the proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out at Appendix 1.**
- 3. To name seven Members to serve on the Working Group.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

To undertake an assessment of how the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee has worked since its introduction at the Planning Committee meeting in June 2015 in order to inform the Council as to whether the scheme should continue and, if so, whether any amendments need to be made.

## **Resource Implications:**

No additional resources will be required to undertake this review.

## **Legal Implications:**

None specifically arising from this report. There is no requirement for Planning Committees to operate a public speaking scheme but, where they do, it must be operated fairly in practice both in respect of provisions and application of the scheme.

## **Risk Management Implications:**

None specifically arising from this report but there could be a reputational risk to the Council

depending upon the outcome of the review and the Council's decision.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

The review must result in a report to Council in May to enable Members to determine whether the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee should continue beyond the trial period of one year.

**Implications for Biodiversity:**

None.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

1.1 At its meeting on 14 April 2015, the Council resolved that a Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee be introduced for a one year trial period starting with the new term of the Council in May 2015 and so commenced with the Planning Committee in June.

**2.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP**

2.1 As the one year trial period will shortly be coming to an end, it is necessary to undertake an assessment of how the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee has worked since its introduction at the Planning Committee meeting in June 2015 in order to inform the Council as to whether the scheme should continue and, if so, whether any amendments need to be made.

2.2 It is proposed that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising seven Members be established to work with Officers to review the scheme. The proposed Terms of Reference for the review are attached at Appendix 1.

**3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 Officers could prepare a report asking Council to determine whether it wished the scheme to continue in place after May but this would not provide the depth of review proposed involving Members.

**4.0 CONSULTATION**

4.1 The review will involve consultation with all parties involved in the scheme.

**5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

5.1 Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee

**6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

6.1 None directly relevant to this report.

**7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

7.1 The impact of administering the scheme will be examined as part of the review.

**8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

8.1 None

9.0 **IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

10.0 **RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

10.1 Council Decision – 14 April 2015

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**Background Papers:** Scheme of Public Participation at Planning Committee

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Proposed Working Group Terms of Reference