

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Full Council - 14 July 2015

Appointment of new TDBC Director to the Southwest One Board

Report of the Assistant Director – Corporate Services, Richard Sealy

(This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Williams)

1. Executive summary

<p>The purpose of the report is to recommend the appointment of Councillor Terry Hall as the Authority's new Director to the board of the Southwest One Partnership.</p>
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2. Background

- 2.1 The Council entered into a contract in 2007 with Somerset County Council and IBM to form the Southwest One 'joint venture partnership' company. The Avon and Somerset Police subsequently joined the partnership in 2008.
- 2.2 Under the terms of the contract the Authority is entitled and required to nominate a Director to sit on the board of Southwest One. The intention within TDBC has always been that the Director should be a Member. To date the Member appointed has always come from the ruling group.
- 2.3 Prior to the election the role was filled by Councillor Bruce Nottrodt. However, as Councillor Nottrodt is no longer a Councillor and following his resignation as our Southwest One Board Director we need to appoint a new Director. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Full Council appoints Councillor Terry Hall as our new Director to the Southwest One Board.

3. The process for nominating a new Director

- 3.1 The decision to appoint a new Director needs to be taken by Full Council in its capacity as the Taunton Deane 'Shareholder' in respect of the Southwest One contract. The new Director will then be authorised to attend the Southwest One Board.
- 3.2 The next meeting of the Southwest One Board is scheduled for Thursday 30 July 2015. Consequently it is important that we appoint a new Director in advance of the next board meeting in order to ensure that the Council is formally represented.
- 3.3 Once appointed the Director can nominate an Alternate Director to act on their behalf in respect of any board meetings which they are unable to attend.

4. The role of the Director

- 4.1 The Board of Southwest One is comprised of a Director from each of the partner Authorities, three IBM appointed directors and an independent Chair.
- 4.2 The primary obligation of each of the Directors is to the Southwest One company and specifically to ensure the smooth running of the company so as to deliver its objectives. Additionally, the Directors represent their respective shareholders. In the case of this Authority the 'Shareholder' is Full Council and, as such, any key decisions relating to the contractual 'reserved matters' would have to be agreed by Full Council. Guidance has previously been provided and will be provided to new members regarding their roles and responsibilities whilst sitting on outside bodies and on how to handle any potential conflicts of interest.

5. Finance comments

- 5.1 The Authority's Director plays a key role in the high level monitoring of the financial status of the Southwest One partnership. IBM, under the contract and as the majority shareholder, provide a guarantee in respect of Southwest One to the public authority shareholders and effectively underwrite the company.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 It is vital that the Authority has a nominated Director in place at all times in order to ensure the Council is adequately represented on the Southwest One board.

7. Links to corporate aims

- 7.1 There are no specific links to the corporate aims.

8. Environmental and community safety implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for the environment or community safety.

9. Equalities impact

- 9.1 There are no equalities impacts resulting from this proposal.

10. Risk management

- 10.1 Failure to have a Member nominated as the Authority's Director for Southwest One would leave the Council without representation on the Southwest One board.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Members are recommended to appoint with immediate effect Councillor Terry Hall to act as the Authority's Director to the Southwest One Board.

Contact

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