

Report to:

COUNCIL

Relevant Officer:

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships

Relevant Cabinet Member:

Leader of the Council

Date of Meeting:

24 May 2023

SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the appointment of a Lead Member for Scrutiny.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to appoint Councillor Paul Galley, in his capacity as Leader of the Principal Opposition, as Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny at Blackpool Council.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are no other options to consider which would be in accordance with the North West Employers review and previous Council decisions arising from that review to have a senior opposition member as Scrutiny Lead Member.

4.0 Council priority:

4.1 The scrutiny committees and the Scrutiny Leadership Board chaired by Lead Scrutiny Member will focus on the proposed priorities of the Council and performance management.

5.0 Background Information: Overview and Scrutiny

5.1 At the Annual Council meeting in 2019, following a recommendation from the review of scrutiny by North West Employers (NWE) the Council appointed a Scrutiny Lead Member who would also chair the Scrutiny Leadership Board. A role profile was developed which is attached at Appendix 11a.

- 5.2 In line with the review and previous Council decisions, a senior opposition member has been appointed as Scrutiny Lead Member since the role was established in 2018.
- 5.3 A follow-up review was conducted by North-West Employers during 2022-23, where it was recognised that the Scrutiny Leadership Board had provided greater clarity and strategic oversight of the scrutiny function as a whole as well as focusing on and contributing to key strategic issues such as the financial inclusion strategy and overall council performance. The finding and recommendations of the NWE report will be considered at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.
- 5.4 In terms of the Scrutiny Lead Member role (and Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board) it is recommended that the role is undertaken by the Principal Opposition Group Leader who would have authority to influence and provide a lead in terms of performance management review, holding the Executive to account, as well as directing scrutiny input into strategy/policy development.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 11 a - Scrutiny Leadership Board Chair Role Profile.

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 set out the statutory responsibilities in terms of the Council's scrutiny arrangements. This includes the requirement for co-opted members on scrutiny committees dealing with educational matters.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 There are no human resources considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

- 9.1 There are no financial implications.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 There are no risk management considerations.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

- 11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the political group leads.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.