South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee
7 June 2018
Appointment of Advisory Members to the Neighbourhood Committee
Report by the Director, Corporate and Commercial

<table>
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<th>Purpose</th>
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<td>To agree a process for appointment of an Advisory Member(s) to the Neighbourhood Committee.</td>
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<th>Recommendation</th>
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<td>To resolve that the process set out in paragraphs 3-4 and 8-10 of the report is agreed for appointment of a Community Adviser for the 2018-19 and 2019/20 municipal years.</td>
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Key Points
A. Since 2015 this Neighbourhood Committee has annually appointed Community Advisers to sit on the Committee, bringing a fresh perspective and helping the Committee to develop its community leadership role. Prior to the appointment process, invitations for nominations for the role are publicly advertised.

B. For the appointment of the Community Adviser in 2017/18, nominations were sought through Chessington Chat and the Neighbourhood’s Facebook page. It is proposed that a similar process is undertaken for appointments for the 2018/19 municipal year. Any expressions of interest will be considered by the Community Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Committee for reporting to the Committee to make an appointments at its next meeting on 6 September.

Context
1. In July 2014 Kingston Council agreed to allow Neighbourhood Committees to appoint non-voting Advisory Members in order to promote Neighbourhood working, particularly with Schools in their areas. Neighbourhood Committees have the power (under Standing Order 20(4)) “to appoint non-voting Advisory Members so that representatives of local Schools, residents and other Community Associations and other appropriate Agencies can have more involvement in Neighbourhood meetings so as to facilitate closer working between the Council and those bodies”. The appointments are considered to be one way in which Neighbourhood Committees can develop their ‘community leadership’ role.

2. In February and March 2015 the Committee agreed the process for appointment and requirements for any prospective Advisory Members to the Committee and this was endorsed again at the Neighbourhood Committee meeting in April 2016. At that meeting the Committee agreed that Advisory Members could serve for more than one municipal year.

3. The Committee indicated that they would be interested to appoint (an) adviser(s) who had experience in one of the following areas: schools or young people; environmental action or awareness; transport; housing; a community organisation.

4. The Committee agreed the following criteria for the role: An applicant:
• must live, work or study in the Neighbourhood
• must be able to attend all the evening meetings of the Neighbourhood Committee in different venues across the Neighbourhood
• should be someone who brings a fresh perspective to the Committee
• can be a member of a political party as long as the role is not used for political party activism

5. Nominations were invited for the Community Adviser role via Chessington Chat and by posters in the Neighbourhood Noticeboards and in Hook and Tolworth Libraries. Nominations were also sought on the Neighbourhood Facebook page.

6. Arising from this process, Sue Towner (chair of the North Surrey branch of the Federation of Small Businesses which covers Kingston and a regional vice chair) was appointed as a Community Adviser for 2017/18 at the Neighbourhood Committee meeting in July 2017.

7. It was also agreed at that meeting that Simon Jakeman (a local fireman who has brought an emergency services perspective to the considerations of the Committee and is also highly active in local and national environmental action, for which he was awarded a British Empire Medal in 2017, and who had served as a community adviser in the 2015/17 and 2016/17 municipal years) would be re-appointed, to serve for a further year.

Proposal and Timescale

8. It is proposed that similar criteria are adopted as set out in paragraphs 3-4 above and that the role is publicised in Chessington Chat and via the Neighbourhood social media and nominations are sought in the June/ July period.

9. The responses will be considered by the Community Manager, in consultation with the Neighbourhood Committee Chair, who will report recommendations to the Committee for appointment at its meeting on 6 September. When considering the nominations, the Committee can re-appoint a community adviser who has served previously.

10. Given that the Adviser appointed in September would not be able to join the Committee until the October meeting and would therefore sit for only 3 meetings, it is proposed that the post be for a two-year, rather than one year, period (2018-19 and 2019-20) ie up to and including June 2020.

Legal and Financial implications

11. None arising from the recommendation of the report.

Background papers – held by the author of the report, Jean Cousens, Democratic Services tel 020 8547 5023 jean.cousens@kingston.gov.uk:
- Report to and Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Committee on 5 July 2017