

Report to: **Council**

Date: **19 May 2016**

Title: **SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Portfolio Area: **Strategy and Commissioning – Cllr Tucker**

Wards Affected: **Salcombe and Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Stokenham**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Immediately**

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Council RESOLVES that with immediate effect

1). That Mr Hugh Marriage, Dr Kit Harling CBE and Mr Mark Long be appointed to the Salcombe Harbour Board as Co-opted Members for the period to the date of the Annual Council meeting in May 2019; and

2). That the appointments process in respect of co-opted Members be amended as outlined in paragraph 3.5 below.

1. Executive summary

1.1 The purpose of the report is to approve the appointment of Co-opted Members to the Salcombe Harbour Board, following the recommendations of the Appointments Panel.

2. Background

2.1 On 20 July 2006, the Council considered and approved proposals for the reconstitution of the Salcombe Harbour Board. This was to ensure that the Council could best govern as a Harbour Authority for the future in line with Department of Transport's (DfT) 'Guide to Good Governance' and the Municipal Ports Review which had been published.

- 2.2 As part of the reconstitution, Members approved the establishment of a 'fit for purpose' Board consisting of up to ten members, of which up to six could be co-opted and four made up by nominated District Councillors. A recruitment process was agreed with appointments being based upon a range of technical skills demonstrated by applicants together with other relevant criteria which would make them suitable Board Members. This applied to both co-opted members and Council nominees.
- 2.3 To provide sufficient continuity, the appointment of co-opted Members has been staggered and there are currently four vacancies to be filled on the Board. The appointment process allows for successful co-opted Members to serve an initial three year term. Following the first three years, and with the agreement of the Chairman of Salcombe Harbour Board, co-opted Members are entitled to serve a further three year term without the need to submit to an interview process.
- 2.4 One co-opted Member, Mr Mark Taylor, has served his initial three year term. Having been consulted by the Chairman of Salcombe Harbour Board, he has expressed the wish to continue in this role and this has been agreed.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 A recruitment process was undertaken and advertisements placed for potential Board Members. There was an unprecedented level of interest shown, and following a shortlisting process, six applicants were interviewed.
- 3.2 The interviews took place on Friday 13 May 2016, with the Panel consisting of Cllr Julian Brazil (Chairman of Salcombe Harbour Board), Judy Westacott (ex-District Councillor and co-opted Member of Dart Harbour Board) and Capt. Tim Charlesworth (Chief Executive and Harbour Master, Cattewater Harbour Commissioners).
- 3.3 As a result of the interview process, Mr Hugh Marriage, Dr Kit Harling CBE and Mr Mark Long were assessed by the Panel as the three most suitable applicants for appointment (when judged against the criteria), and were recommended for the vacant positions on the Board.
- 3.4 Following an amendment to the process for the appointment of District Council Members whereby a casual vacancy could be filled without a full recruitment process taking place, it has been suggested that the appointment of co-opted Members should now be subject to the same conditions.
- 3.5 It is therefore proposed that the Council Constitution be updated whereby the appointment process for co-opted Members be amended to include the following:

'Co-opted Members shall be appointed to the Board at the first annual meeting following a recruitment, interview and appointment process for a three year term. In the event of a casual vacancy arising before the next scheduled recruitment process, the person who was felt during the recruitment process to be the next most 'fit for purpose' to serve on the Board shall be recommended for appointment'.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 The Constitution sets out the number of co-opted Members who should sit on the Salcombe Harbour Board and the terms under which they are appointed. It is therefore a requirement that a recruitment process is undertaken.
- 4.2 There are potential risks in failing to appoint a 'fit for purpose' Board Member. The robust recruitment process which judges applications against set criteria has mitigated this risk.
- 4.3 There is a risk that appointed Members may not be able to serve a full term. By amending the process as set out in para 3.5, the Board will have a full complement of co-opted Members without the need for a further recruitment exercise.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 Following on from the recruitment process and the interview panel, the proposed way forward is to appoint co-opted Members in line with the recommendations of the Interview Panel.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Statutory Powers – Local Government Act 2000; Local Government Act 1972 and the Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954
Financial	N	There are no direct financial implications
Risk	N	These are addressed in the body of the report
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	Not applicable
Safeguarding	N	Not applicable
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	Not applicable
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	Not applicable

Background Papers

Council Constitution

Department of Transport's (DfT) 'Guide to Good Governance'

The Municipal Ports Review

