

Report to: **Council**

Date: **15 December 2016**

Title: **APPOINTMENT OF SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD CO-OPTED MEMBER**

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, Ali Jones be appointed to the Salcombe Harbour Board as a Co-opted Member for the period to the date of the Annual Council meeting in May 2020.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to approve the appointment of a Co-opted Member 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. 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, Dr Kit Harling CBE, was successfully reappointed in May 2016 following an interview process. However, Dr Harling has now tendered his resignation from the Board citing time demands of his PhD project.
- 2.5 Following the last recruitment process, Council agreed that 'if a casual vacancy arose 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' (Minute 19/16 refers).

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 A recruitment process was previously undertaken and co-opted Members appointed at the Annual Meeting of Council on 19 May 2016.
- 3.2 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 appointed to the vacant positions on the Board.
- 3.3 The appointment process was amended to allow the next most 'fit for purpose' candidate to serve on the Board should a casual vacancy arise. Following receipt of Dr Harling's resignation, Ali Jones has been informally approached as the next most 'fit for purpose' candidate from the latest recruitment process. Ms Jones has indicated that, subject to Council approval, she would be very happy to be appointed as a co-opted Member to the Salcombe Harbour Board.

- 3.4 Co-opted Members are usually appointed for a three year term. In this instance, it is recommended to appoint Ms Jones for slightly more than a three year term until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2020. The reason for this is to ensure some level of continuity, as three of the existing co-opted Members will be due to complete their terms in May 2019.

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 the Board could lose four co-opted Members during May 2019. This would be a significant loss of experience and knowledge. Appointing Ms Jones until May 2020 will provide continuity and help to mitigate this risk.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 The proposed way forward is to appoint a co-opted Member in line with the previous recommendations of the Interview Panel and the Constitution.

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