

**To: Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

**Report of: Head of Law and Governance**

**Title of Report: Finance Standing Panel Membership**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To agree, or not, additional appointments to the Finance Standing Panel

**Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Simmons**

**Recommendations:**

**The Scrutiny Committee is asked to decide if it wishes to appoint Councillor Fooks to the Finance Standing Panel.**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. At the first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in June 2013 a set of operating principles was agreed. These included guidelines for the membership of Panels.
2. The guideline is that whilst panels do not have to be politically balanced a “starting point” will be used for membership according to the size of the Panel. Membership will only vary from this with the agreement of the Committee.
3. The table below is an extract from the operating principles and outlines the membership “starting point” agreed.

Principle	Comment
<p>Panels will be commissioned to conduct more detailed scrutiny work.</p> <p>Panels do not have to be politically balanced but the Committee will use the following guide for appointment:</p> <p>All Panels should have between 3 and 6 members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 member Panel – 1 from each party or 2 from the administration plus 1 other. If a party does not want to take a place then committee agree on the allocation of that place.</li> <li>• 4 member Panel – 1 from each party plus another administration member. If a party does not want to take a place then committee agree on the allocation of that place.</li> <li>• 5 member Panel – 1 from each party plus another administration member. Committee agree the 5<sup>th</sup> member. If a party does not wish to take a place the committee agrees on the allocation of that place.</li> <li>• 6 member Panel - 1 from each party plus another administration member and another opposition member. Committee agrees the 6<sup>th</sup> member. If a party does not wish to take a place the committee agrees the allocation of that place.</li> </ul>	<p>The Scrutiny Committee will continue to hold the Executive and Senior Officers to account publicly at committees but will also set Panels drawn from all non executive councillors to consider issues in more detail.</p> <p>Themed Lead Members will lead or actively engage with Panels within their area and report back to the Scrutiny Committee on progress and outcomes.</p>

### Current Position

4. The Finance Standing Panel was appointed by the Committee as a 4 member Panel which matched the agreed arrangements. Since this appointment, and in line with the Scrutiny Committee's desire to involve non executive councillors, a request has been received from Councillor Fooks to join the Finance Panel. This would make a 5 member Panel and requires the Scrutiny Committee to confirm or not additional membership.

5. The options available to the committee are:

- To confirm Councillor Fooks membership.
- To not agree Councillor Fooks membership.
- To confirm Councillor Fooks membership along with the appointment of a further Administration member.
- Any other arrangement agreed by the Committee.

6. The Committee is asked to decide.

**Name and contact details of author:-**

Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer – Law and Governance

Tele: 01865 252191

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

**List of background papers: Scrutiny Committee Operating Principles  
Version number: 1**

This page is intentionally left blank