

To: Housing and Homelessness Panel
Date: 06 October 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Co-option of Tenant Ambassador(s)

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To agree arrangements for Tenant Ambassador co-option and contribution to the Housing and Homelessness Panel
Key decision:	No
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation(s): That the Housing and Homelessness Panel:	
1.	Agrees the arrangements for Tenant Ambassador co-option for the 2022/23 municipal year, including the number of Tenant Ambassador co-optees and how contributions to Panel meetings will be managed and facilitated.
2.	Recommends proposed arrangements for Tenant Ambassador co-option for the 2022/23 municipal year to the Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Introduction and Background

1. At its last meeting of the 2021/22 municipal year, on 22 March 2022, the Housing and Homelessness Panel agreed that the Panel would defer decisions on future working arrangements to the new Scrutiny Committee and Panel membership.
2. Scrutiny Committee, on 08 June 2022, approved the Scrutiny Operating Principles which set out that there would be six members of the Panel. Tenant Ambassadors have previously attended meetings of the Housing and Homelessness Panel and have made a valuable contribution.

Co-option

3. The Scrutiny Operating Principles for the 2022/23 municipal year describe that “at the discretion of the Committee, residents and other specialists may be co-opted as non-voting members of the Committee, Standing Panels and Review Groups, as the subject matter dictates for a period ending no later than the day of the first meeting of the next council year. The Committee may discontinue an appointment at any time.”

4. Officers recommend that at least one Tenant Ambassador be formally co-opted to the Panel as a member of it. The Tenant Ambassador would not have voting rights but this formal co-optee status would enable the Tenant Ambassador to question and probe in the same way as elected members of the Panel. This would demonstrate the Council's commitment to taking account of the insights of tenants.

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