

Croydon Council

REPORT TO:	Pension Committee 19 September 2017
AGENDA ITEM:	11
SUBJECT:	Election of Pensioner Representatives to the Pension Committee
LEAD OFFICER:	Nigel Cook Head of Pensions and Treasury
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Simon Hall Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: Sound Financial Management: The appointment of representatives from the current pensioners will ensure that the Pension Fund complies with its governance requirements.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: The additional cost of this exercise, beyond staff costs, is £10,155. This will be charged to the Pension Fund. .	
FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: N/A	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to formally endorse the result of the ballot and to co-opt the two candidates with the greatest number of votes onto the Committee as members for a period of three years.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report seeks the Committee's endorsement of the recent ballot of Local Government Pension Scheme pensioners and the co-option of two pensioner representatives with the greatest number of votes onto the Pension Committee. As per the Committee's Terms of Reference, Members are reminded that the representative who received the greatest number of votes will be entitled to vote on decisions taken by the Pension Committee. The two successful candidates are Ms Gilli Driver and Mr Peter Howard with Ms Driver entitled to vote on decisions taken by the Pension Committee.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Since September 2008 the Pension Committee has included two pensioner

representatives, elected by pensioners in the Local Government Pension Scheme. These representatives are elected by secret postal ballot for three-year periods, i.e. 2008 – 2011, 2011 – 2014, and 2014 to September 2017. This report sets out the results of the most recent ballot, held over this summer. Note that the process took rather longer than anticipated because of the General Election and the impact of the period of purdah.

3.2 The process followed was as has now been well established:

- All UK based pensioners were invited to self-nominate. Nominations were accompanied by a statement of up to 250 words.
- Ballot papers were sent to all pensioners, UK domiciled and overseas, inviting scheme members to vote for two of the candidates on the ballot paper.
- Ballots were counted publicly by the Council's Counting Officer in the Town Hall on 24th July.

3.3 The declaration of results is as follows:

Name of candidate	Number of Votes
Jorn G Cooper	368
Gilli Driver	1541 (Elected)
Peter Howard	1234 (Elected)
Earl G J Thompson	192
Rejected ballots	48

A number of ballots were received after the deadline for receipt of completed ballots. These were not counted.

3.4 Therefore Gilli Driver and Peter Howard are elected.

3.5 Members are asked to endorse this result and invite Ms Driver and Mr Howard to join the Committee for a period of three years. Each representative will be expected to attend at least 75% of meetings (subject to any health or disability considerations), and this has been clearly communicated to them. This result will be published on the Croydon LGPS web-site.

3.6 Following a review of the Council's Constitution, the voting arrangements for the Committee have been amended thus:

“Two representatives of Pensioners of the Fund elected by ballot of Pensioners of the Fund, one of whom shall be a voting member and one of whom shall be a non-voting member. The representative with the most votes following the ballot of Pensioners of the Fund shall be the voting member. The other representative of the Pensioners of the Fund shall be non-voting however is permitted to exercise a vote only in the absence of, and on behalf of, the voting representative.”

3.7 Thus Ms Driver is the voting representative.

4 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 There are no further financial considerations flowing from this report.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Other than the considerations referred to above, there are no customer Focus, Equalities, Environment and Design, Crime and Disorder or Human Rights considerations arising from this report

6. COMMENTS OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL

- 6.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no additional legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report, beyond those already set out in the body of the report.
- 6.2 (Approved for and on behalf of Jacqueline Harris-Baker, Director of Law and Monitoring Officer)

CONTACT OFFICER:

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Resources department, ext. 62552.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

Appendices

Appendix A: Declaration of Result of Poll.