

Full Council Agenda item 7 – Co-option September 2021

THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The candidate has received an application form and a co-option eligibility and person specification form.

WPC is not obliged to fill any vacancy. Even if the council invites applications for co-option it is not obliged to select anyone from the candidates that apply.

However, despite this, it is not desirable that electors be left under-represented for a significant length of time, neither does it contribute to effective and efficient working of the council if there are insufficient councillors to share the workload equitably; to provide a broad cross-section of skills and interests; or to achieve meeting quorums without difficulty.

Councillors elected by co-option are full members of WPC.

At the Co-option Meeting

At the co-option meeting the candidate will be given five minutes maximum to introduce themselves to Members, give information on their background and experience and explain why they wish to become a Member of WPC.

As soon as the candidate has finished giving her submissions, the Council can then address her with any relevant questions and then vote on the acceptability of the candidate utilising the person specification criteria and any personal statements provided by the candidate.

In order for a candidate to be elected to WPC it will be necessary for them to obtain an absolute majority of votes cast (50% + 1 of the votes available at the meeting).

After the vote has been concluded the Chairman will declare the successful candidate duly elected and, after signing their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, she may take her seat immediately.

The Clerk will notify Electoral Services of the new appointment. The successful candidate(s) must complete their 'Registration of Interests' within 28 days of being elected. The form should be handed to the Clerk for forwarding to the Monitoring Officer.