

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
3 JULY 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Director of Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Officer	Tel. 452508

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain the membership of Alistair Kingsley to the Committee as an Independent Co-optee with no voting rights for the municipal year 2017/2018. This to be reviewed on an annual basis. 2. Appoint Rizwan Rehmatullah as a non-voting co-opted member to represent the Muslim Communities for municipal year 2017/2018. Appointment to be reviewed at the beginning of the 2018/2019 municipal year and then annually going forward.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee on behalf of the Director of Governance

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Committee appoint Alistair Kingsley and Rizwan Rehmatullah as Non-Voting Co-opted Members to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions:

4.2 The Scrutiny Committees shall be entitled to co-opt, as non-voting members, up to four external representatives or otherwise invite participation from non-members where this is relevant to their work.

2.2 This report is for Children and Education Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 4.2 of Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions – Co-optees.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Independent Co-opted Member

Alistair Kingsley became a statutory Parent Governor Representative of the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee (dissolved on 31 December 2016)

and now known as the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in May 2010, his term of office was for three years and this ended in May 2013. Alistair was unable to continue as a Parent Governor Representative as his governing responsibilities had changed and he was therefore no longer eligible to be a statutory co-opted member of the Committee. On 22 April 2013 the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee agreed that Alistair could remain on the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights. Alistair has since been an active and valuable member of the committee providing effective and challenging scrutiny at all meetings. He has also been a member of two Task and Finish Groups during his appointment. Alistair has expressed a keen interest in continuing as a co-opted member and Committee Members have also expressed an interest in retaining Alistair as a Member.

4.2 **Independent Co-opted Member - Muslim Community Representative**

In accordance with Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions: paragraph 4.2, all Scrutiny Committees are entitled to co-opt, as non-voting members up to four external representatives or otherwise invite participation from non-members where this is relevant to their work.

At a meeting held on 5 January 2017 the Committee recommended that further co-opted members should be sought for the remaining vacant non-voting co-optee positions from either the Muslim community, Racial Equality Council, SACRE or the Teachers Union. The Democratic Services team approached the council's Cohesion Manager to assist with identifying organisations that may wish to put forward nominations for this appointment. Following this the Senior Democratic Services Officer has since been contacted by the Muslim Council of Peterborough and received a nomination, Rizwan Rehmatullah to represent the Muslim Community. Mr Rehmatullah has a number of achievements and the following gives an insight into some of them:

“Rizwan’s working life has mainly been in the Public Sector where he has worked within Learning and Development, primarily within Leadership and Management Training, both as a practitioner and as Team Leader. Throughout his career (with each employer), he has also held the posts of Equality Diversity & Human Rights Advisor on a voluntary basis.

He currently holds the position of UNISON Chair for the Self-Organised Black Members Group within the Police and Justice Branch. As well as this Rizwan is the Vice Chair of the Peterborough Racial Equality Council, Management Committee member and Safeguarding Officer for the Husaini Islamic Centre (Burton Street Mosque) and Executive member of the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council.

He is also an Executive Committee member of the Muslim Council of Peterborough where he holds the portfolio of ‘Safeguarding of Children and Young Persons’ in Mosque and non-Mosque affiliated Madrasahs.

With the support of the Peterborough City Council and Children Safeguarding Board, Rizwan has been instrumental in the ‘Safeguarding Children in Mosques and Madrasahs’ project in Peterborough. This has included him co-writing a Guidance Booklet around Safeguarding responsibilities and delivering appropriate training within the Muslim and non-Muslim community in Peterborough to those who have Safeguarding responsibilities for young persons attending the Mosque, Madrasah or Supplementary School”.

It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Rizwan Rehmatullah as an Independent Co-opted Member of the Committee.

4.3 **NEXT STEPS**

If the Committee agree to appoint Alistair Kingsley and Rizwan Rehmatullah as Co-opted Members of the Children and Education Committee from 3 July 2017, they can attend all meetings of the Committee and any Task and Finish Groups that the Committee agree that they may be assigned to with no voting rights.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 None

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 The inclusion of the two Independent Co-opted Members will allow the Committee a wider, more diverse input to discussion, drawing on the relevant expertise of the additional members.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The recommendations are made to assist the Scrutiny Committee in fulfilling the terms of reference as set out in the constitution Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions:

4.2 The Scrutiny Committees shall be entitled to co-opt, as non-voting members, up to four external representatives or otherwise invite participation from non-members where this is relevant to their work.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 Co-opted Members will receive a special responsibility allowance of £250 per annum as stated in the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Legal Implications

9.2 Due process has been followed with regards to the appointment of the Co-optees.

Equalities Implications

9.3 Members were keen to ensure that the Committee membership is as inclusive as possible.

Rural Implications

9.4 N/A

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

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