

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
1 OCTOBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Mohammed Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation	
Contact Officer(s):	Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 452508

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS
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R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Director of Law and Governance	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint Alistair Kingsley to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2020/2021. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 2. Appoint Rizwan Rahemtulla as a non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the Muslim Community for the municipal year 2020/2021. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 3. Appoint Parish Councillor Susie Lucas as a non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2020/2021. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 4. Appoint Parish Councillor Dr Sridhar Dharshana as a second non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2020/2021 or as the nominated substitute for Susie Lucas should she be appointed as the non-voting Co-opted Member representing the rural area. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Committee appoint Alistair Kingsley, Rizwan Rahemtulla and Susie Lucas as Non-Voting Co-opted Members for the municipal year 2020/21 to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions:

Paragraph 4.3 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.

And Part 4, Section 8 – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules: Paragraph 3 - CO-OPTED MEMBERS

3.1 As well as any statutory co-opted members, Scrutiny Committees can co-opt up to four non-voting members on to the Committee.

3.2 There must be at least one non-voting position reserved for a Parish Councillor from a rural area with one substitute member. The Parish Council Liaison Committee will decide these.

3.3 A Scrutiny Committee can co-opt a further three members at its discretion. One of these can be a second parish council member identified by the Parish Council Liaison Committee.

2.2 The Committee is also requested to consider appointing Parish Councillor Dr Sridhar Dharshana as a second co-opted member representing the rural area or as a substitute for Susie Lucas.

2.3 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 has been a Co-opted Member of this Committee since 22 April 2013 when the committee was formally called the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee. Since his appointment Alistair has 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. Since joining the committee as a Co-opted Member Alistair has joined the Boards / Governing Bodies of several educational establishments including:

- Chair of Hampton Academies Trust in Peterborough
- Chair of KWEST Academy Trust in Kings Lynn
- Temporary Chair of the newly formed Richard Barnes Academy in Peterborough (formerly the PRU), part of the TDET Academy Trust.
- Vice Chair of Dogsthorpe Infants School in Peterborough
- Member of the Regional Schools Commissioners Head Teachers Board for the East of England and North London
- Independent Chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint SEND Executive Board
- Independent Chair of the Combined Authority Employment & Skills Board
- Chair of the Peterborough Governor Leadership Group
- Apprenticeship Ambassador for the East of England Apprenticeship Ambassador network.

Alistair has expressed an interest in continuing as a Co-opted Member and Committee Members have also expressed an interest in retaining Alistair as a Member.

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

4.2 Co-opted Member - Muslim Community Representative

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. Rizwan Rahmetulla was nominated by the Muslim Council of Peterborough to represent the Muslim Community and the committee agreed to this appointment at its meeting on 3 July 2017. The Chairman of the Muslim Council of Peterborough has therefore nominated Rizwan to continue to represent the Muslim Community of Peterborough for a further year.

It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Rizwan Rahmetulla as an Independent Co-opted Member of the Committee to represent the Muslim Community.

4.3 **Parish Councillor Co-opted Members**

Each Scrutiny committee has the ability to co-opt up to four non-voting co-opted members one of which will be a Parish Councillor representing the rural area to ensure the voice of the rural communities are reflected.

Parish Councillor co-opted members are nominated through a process which is handled by the Think Communities Service area in People and Communities on behalf of the Parish Council Liaison Committee. This is done by sending out an advert and Terms of Reference for each Scrutiny Committee to all Parish Councils asking for expressions of interest for the position. Any expressions of interest received are assessed by the Chair of the Parish Council Liaison for experience and skills and why the candidate wishes to become a co-opted member of a particular scrutiny committee. The final nominations are then put forward to the relevant committee for approval. The Parish Council Liaison has therefore proposed that Parish Councillor Susie Lucas be nominated to represent the rural area on the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and that Parish Councillor Dr Sridhar Dharshana be nominated as a second co-opted member or as a substitute should the Committee decide to only appoint one Parish Councillor co-opted member.

It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Susie Lucas as a Parish Councillor Co-opted Member of this committee to represent the rural area and consider the appointment of Dr Sridhar Dharshana as a second Parish Councillor Co-opted Member or as a substitute for Susie Lucas for the municipal year 2020/21.

4.4 **NEXT STEPS**

If the Committee agree to appoint the above nominations as co-opted members of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee from 1 October 2020, they will be able to attend and take part in 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. If Dr Sridhar Dharshana is appointed as a substitute she may attend and take part in any meeting when asked to attend as a substitute for Susie Lucas.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 None

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The inclusion of 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.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

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

Equalities Implications

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

Rural Implications

- 8.4 The appointment of a Parish Councillor as a co-opted member representing the rural area will ensure that the voice of the rural communities are reflected.

Other Implications

- 8.5 The appointment of a Co-opted Member Representing the Muslim Community will ensure that the voice of the Muslim Communities are reflected.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 9.1 None.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 None.