

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
5 JULY 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation	
Contact Officer(s):	David Beauchamp, 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
<p>It is recommended that the Communities Scrutiny Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint Parish Councillor Neil Boyce as a non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 2. Appoint Parish Councillor James Hayes as a second non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2021/2022 or as the nominated substitute for Neil Boyce should he 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 Neil Boyce as a Non-Voting Co-opted Member for the municipal year 2021/22 to the Communities 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 James Hayes as a second co-opted member representing the rural area or as a substitute for Neil Boyce.
- 2.3 This report is for Communities Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 4.3 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**

Parish Councillor Co-opted Members

- 4.1 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 Neil Boyce be nominated to represent the rural area on the Communities Scrutiny Committee and that Parish Councillor James Hayes 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 Neil Boyce as a Parish Councillor Co-opted Member of this committee to represent the rural area and consider the appointment of James Hayes as a second Parish Councillor Co-opted Member or as a substitute for Neil Boyce for the municipal year 2021/22.

4.2 **NEXT STEPS**

If the Committee agree to appoint the above nominations as co-opted members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee from 5 July 2021, 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 James Hayes is appointed as a substitute he may attend and take part in any meeting when asked to attend as a substitute for Neil Boyce.

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:

4.3 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.

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.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

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