

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
12 JULY 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Rochelle Tapping, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel.01733 384628

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2023/2024

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Director of Law and Governance	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint Matthew Barber to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2023/2024. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 2. Appoint Stuart Dawks to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2023/2024. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 3. Appoint Dr Esther Norton to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2023/2024. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 4. Appoint Parish Councillor Michael Samways as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2023/2024. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 5. Appoint Parish Councillor Neil Boyce as the nominated substitute for Parish Councillor Michael Samways 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 Matthew Barber, Stuart Dawks, Dr Esther Norton and Parish Councillor Michael Samways as Non-Voting Co-opted Members for the municipal year 2023/2024 to the Climate Change and Environment 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 This report is for the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny 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

4.1 At the committee's annual work programming session held on 12 June 2023 Members discussed the co-opted membership of the committee and requested that expressions of interest be sought from persons with knowledge and expertise in the following areas: climate change, the environment and areas relevant to the terms of reference of this Committee.

Three expressions of interest were received and having considered all three expressions of interest from persons, with relevant backgrounds, and noting that the committee's terms of reference allowed for four Co-opted members to be appointed, the Committee agreed that the following nominations be put forward as co-opted members for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

Independent Co-opted Members

4.2 Matthew Barber

Matthew currently works for Sustrans, the Walking and Cycling Charity as Head of Partnerships. Mathew's specialism is Active Travel and has in depth knowledge of the subject area which will enable him to offer advice on the subject to the committee and distil complex technical information. Matthew also has a good working knowledge of Local Government. As a Geography graduate, Matthew brings a wider interest and knowledge of environmental sciences and climate change, inclusive of literature, and current policy and strategy work, and can therefore bring a well-rounded and balanced view to the Committee.

Having reviewed the expression of interest received from Matthew Barber the Committee agreed to put Matthew Barber forward as a Co-opted Member for this municipal year. It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Matthew Barber as a Co-opted Member of the Committee for this municipal year.

4.3 Stuart Dawks

Stuart currently works for PECT an Environment Charity based in Peterborough as Director of Operations. During his career Stuart has been responsible for working on and delivering many programmes to support the transition to and raise awareness of climate adaptation including, renewable energy, sustainable transport, circular economy, and a range of behaviour change programmes. Stuart hopes to bring both his professional expertise, as well as the wider PECT knowledge to help guide and support the committee.

Having reviewed the expression of interest received from Stuart Dawks the Committee agreed to put Stuart forward as a Co-opted Member for this municipal year. It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Stuart Dawks as a Co-opted Member of the Committee for this municipal year.

4.4 Dr Esther Norton

Dr Norton is the Assistant Principal at Anglia Ruskin University Peterborough (ARU-P) and has a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a PhD in Environmental Geotechnics. In the School of Engineering and the Built Environment at ARU Dr Norton has led engineering and construction courses and developed curriculum to bring the climate crisis and ecological breakdown front and centre, by developing the skills and knowledge that engineering graduates require to make a meaningful contribution to the achievement of net zero by 2050, and to adapt to a world affected by climate change. In November 2021, as chair of the Association of Civil Engineering Departments (ACED) Dr Norton organised a conference entitled "Civil Engineering: Leading Sustainable Change". Dr Norton has written the curriculum for a BSc(Hons) Environmental Management and is now managing its delivery alongside a Degree Apprenticeship and is also involved in the development of ARU Peterborough's sustainability policy. Dr Norton sees becoming a Co-opted Member as an opportunity to engage with the community on sustainability and environmental matters and to share and support the work that ARU-P and PCC are carrying out in this critical area.

Having reviewed the expression of interest received from Dr Norton the Committee agreed to put Dr Esther Norton forward as a Co-opted Member for this municipal year. It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Dr Norton as a Co-opted Member of the Committee for this municipal year.

4.5 Parish Councillor Michael Samways

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 Parish Council Liaison Committee Working Group. Any expressions of interest the Working Group receive are assessed and final nominations are then put forward to the relevant committee for approval. The Parish Council Liaison Working Group has therefore proposed that Parish Councillor Michael Samways be nominated as the substantive co-opted member to represent the rural area on the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee and that Parish Councillor Neil Boyce be nominated as the substitute should the Committee decide to appoint Parish Councillor Michael Samways as the substantive co-opted member.

It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Michael Samways as a Parish Councillor Co-opted Member of this committee to represent the rural area and approve the appointment of Parish Councillor Neil Boyce as the substitute for Parish Councillor Michael Samways for the municipal year 2023/2024.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 If the Committee agree to appoint the above nominations as co-opted members of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee from 12 July 2023, 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 Parish Councillor Neil Boyce is appointed as a substitute he may attend and take part in any meeting when asked to attend as a substitute for Parish Councillor Michael Samways

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 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.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 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.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 N/A

10. IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Financial Implications

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

10.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in respect of what is proposed.

10.3 Equalities Implications

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

10.4 Rural Implications

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

10.5 Other Implications

None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None.

12. APPENDICES

None