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| <b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT<br/>SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> | AGENDA ITEM No. 5 |
| <b>10 JULY 2024</b>                                          | PUBLIC REPORT     |

|                     |                                                                        |                  |
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| Report of:          | Neil McArthur, Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer |                  |
| Contact Officer(s): | Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer                  | Tel.01733 384628 |

**APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2024/2025**

| RECOMMENDATIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |
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| <b>FROM:</b> Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Deadline date:</b> N/A |
| <p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. Appoint Parish Councillor Terry Young 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.</li> </ol> |                           |

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee on behalf of the Director of Legal and Governance, Monitoring Officer and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Committee appoint Stuart Dawks, Dr Esther Norton and Parish Councillor Terry Young as Non-Voting Co-opted Members for the municipal year 2024/2025 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? | <b>NO</b> | If yes, date for Cabinet meeting | <b>N/A</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|

### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 At the committee's annual work programming session held on 11 June 2024 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.

#### **Parish Council Co-opted Members**

4.2 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 Terry Young be nominated as the substantive co-opted member to represent the rural area on the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Parish Councillor Terry Young**

4.3 Parish Councillor Young served as co-opted member of the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 23-24. He retired from full-time employment 4 years ago and is now actively engaged in the community both as Parish Councillor for Castor and as Treasurer of the Peterborough U3A (an organisation of 2,200 members locally).

He has a degree in Biology and developed a career in sales of food ingredients to the Food industry. He has worked for multinational companies as Sales/Commercial/Managing Director of their UK subsidiary (Barry Callebaut – chocolate, Puratos – bakery, Firmenich – flavours and fragrances) as well as working with a start-up company in Nottingham (Chrysalis) manufacturing vitamin supplements, growing from zero to £2m turnover.

#### **Independent Co-opted Members**

4.4 At the annual work programming session, the Chair, Vice Chair and Group Representatives considered expressions of interest from two independent individuals who wished to be co-opted on to the Committee.

#### 4.5 **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.

#### 4.6 **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.

### **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 10 July 2024, 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.

### **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chair, Vice Chair and Group Representatives of the Committee are all aware and support the appointments outlined above.

### **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 recommendation is made to the Scrutiny Committee to formally appoint the Independent Co-opted Members. The Committee are required to approve the appointment before the co-optees can take part as non-voting members of the Committee.

### **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Not having co-opted members. This option was considered by the Chair, Vice Chair and Group Representatives determined that this would not benefit the work of the Committee.

## **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**

The formal appointment of a co-optee onto a Scrutiny Committee is provided for in the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out the powers of committees, including those of co-opted members.

### **10.3 Equalities Implications**

Members are keen to ensure that the Committee membership is as inclusive as possible and provides relevant expertise in accordance with the terms of reference for this committee.

### **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