

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
15 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Neil McArthur, Director for Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
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APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2024/2025

RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint Sameena Aziz as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the Muslim Community for the municipal year 2024/2025. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. 2. Appoint Parish Councillor Jane Taylor-Pitt as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2024/2025. 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 for Legal and Governance and 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 Parish Councillor Jane Taylor-Pitt and Sameena Aziz as a Non-Voting Co-opted Members for the municipal year 2024/25 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 Paragraph 3 Part 4, Section 8 – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules: 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.

3.3 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.

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 10 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 areas relevant to the terms of reference of this Committee.

5. **Parish Councillor Co-opted Members**

5.1 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.

5.2 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 received are assessed by the working group 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 Jane Taylor-Pitt be nominated as the substantive co-opted member to represent the rural area on the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

5.3 **Parish Councillor Jane Taylor-Pitt**

Parish Councillor Taylor-Pitt hold her QTS and her last post was as Assistant Head to a school in Peterborough where she was also the Safeguarding lead and SENCO. She has taught in a range of schools including mainstream and SEND. She hold certificates for mentoring, safeguarding etc and has completed a number of research projects over the years including 'Poverty in Action', set up a community association, used Lottery funding to build a community allotment and helped schools (including my own) write curriculum maps for creative curriculums, achieving Arts Mark Gold.

5.4 **Independent Co-opted Members**

5.5 **Sameena Aziz - Muslim Community Representative**

Sameena has been an Independent Co-opted Member of the Committee since July 2021. Sameena has expressed an interest in continuing as a Co-opted Member and committee members have also expressed an interest in retaining Sameena as a Co-opted Member. Sameena has over 20 years of experience in education across different key stages and disciplines, having retired four years ago as a principal of a secondary school and having successfully managed several Ofsted inspections. Sameena is currently the Principal of the Education Learning Hub, supporting learners in Mathematics, English, exam preparation skills, developing reasoning, problem solving and study skills. Sameena has worked with many community groups over the past fifteen years in Peterborough and is a founding member of the Muslim Council of Peterborough. Sameena is also an independent researcher. It is therefore proposed that the Committee approve the appointment of Sameena Aziz as a Co-opted Member of the Committee to represent the Muslim Community of Peterborough for this municipal year.

5.6 **NEXT STEPS**

If the Committee agree to appoint the above nominations as co-opted members of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee from 15 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

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 the co-opted members will allow the Committee to have 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 None.

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

10.5 The rural areas of Peterborough are represented through the inclusion of the Parish Council Co-opted Members.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

12. APPENDICES

None.

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