

<b>GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
<b>16 JULY 2024</b>	PUBLIC REPORT

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	
<b>FROM:</b> Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appoint James Nicholas Sandford 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 Parish Councillor Daryl Brennan 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> <li>3. Appoint Parish Councillor Barry Warne 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 James Nicholas Sandford, Parish Councillor Daryl Brennan and Parish Councillor Barry Warne as Non-Voting Co-opted Members for the municipal year 2024/2025 to the Growth, Resources and 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.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 At the committee's annual work programming session held on 18 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 Councillors Daryl Brennan and Barry Warne be nominated as the substantive co-opted members to represent the rural area on the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Parish Councillor Daryl Brennan**

4.3 Parish Councillor Brennan has served as a Parish Councillor for over 2 years and is a Trustee at the Orton Park Cricket Club. He has undertaken Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) training for Planning and Parish Councils. He would like to make a positive contribution in challenging and scrutinizing the Committee's functions.

#### **Parish Councillor Barry Warne**

4.4 Parish Councillor Warne is an active member of the Peterborough Green Party Committee and has been involved in politics for some time. He has previously served on some of the scrutiny committees and would like to be involved again.

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

4.5 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.

#### 4.6 **James Nicholas Sandford**

Mr Sandford served for 28 years as a councillor for the Walton ward and then for the Paston and Walton ward. He served as a member on scrutiny committees ever since the Council first adopted the leader and cabinet model in 2002.

He has expertise in a number of the areas of work covered by the Growth and Resources Committee, including a detailed knowledge on public transport of which the Growth committee has responsibility for reviewing.

In the last Municipal Year, Mr Sandford attended several meetings of the committee in his capacity as mayor, primarily to discuss some constitutional aspects of the Community Assets review.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 If the Committee agree to appoint the above nominations as co-opted members of the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee from 16 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