
Report of Head of Scrutiny

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 15 September 2016

Subject: Co-opted Members

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report provides guidance to the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) regarding the appointment of co-opted members. There are also some legislative arrangements in place for the appointment of specific co-opted members set out in Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Recommendation

2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to:
 - i) consider voluntary sector nomination and appoint Claire Hopkins as co-opted member, Young Lives Leeds to the Scrutiny Board for the remainder of this municipal year.
 - ii) note the election of Louise Nichols as Parent Governor Representative (Primary) for a term of 4 years.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Scrutiny Board's formal consideration for the appointment of a voluntary sector representative (Young Lives Leeds) and advise the Board of the election of the Parent Governor Representative (Primary).

2 Main Issues

- 2.1 For a number of years the Council's Constitution has made provision for the appointment of co-opted members to individual Scrutiny Boards. It is widely recognised that in some circumstances, co-opted members can significantly aid the work of Scrutiny Boards. This is currently reflected in Article 6 (Scrutiny Boards) of the Council's Constitution, which outlines the options available to Scrutiny Boards in relation to appointing co-opted members.
- 2.2 In general terms, at this moment in time Scrutiny Boards can appoint:
- Up to five non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that does not go beyond the next Annual Meeting of Council ; and/or,
 - Up to two non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that relates to the duration of a particular and specific scrutiny inquiry.
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Board appointed to the majority of non – voting positions in at its meeting 16 June 2016. As a voluntary sector nomination had not been received this position remained vacant. A nomination, Claire Hopkins has recently been received.
- 2.4 The Local Government Act 2000 states that the relevant Scrutiny Board dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives in accordance with statutory requirements:
- One Church of England diocese representative¹
 - One Roman Catholic diocese representative¹
 - Parent governor representatives²

The Parent Governor representative (primary) position was vacant in June 2016 but has recently been filled by Louise Nichols, Parent Governor by process of election.

3.0 Corporate Considerations

3.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 3.1.1 The guidance surrounding co-opted members was previously discussed by the Scrutiny Chairs when it was agreed that individual Scrutiny Boards would consider the appointment of co-optees on an individual basis.

¹ Article 6 states this appointment shall be for a term of office that does not go beyond the next Annual Meeting of Council

² Article 6 states these appointments shall be for a four-year term of office

3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

3.2.1 The process for appointing co-opted members should be open, effective and carried out in a manner which seeks to strengthen the work of the Scrutiny Board. In doing so, due regard should also be given to any potential equality issues in line with the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme.

3.3 Council Policies and Best Council Plan

3.3.1 The Council's Scrutiny arrangements are one of the key parts of the Council's governance arrangements. Within the Council's Constitution, there is particular provision for the appointment of co-opted members to individual Scrutiny Boards, which this report seeks to summarise.

3.4 Resources and Value for Money

3.4.1 Where applicable, any incidental expenses paid to co-optees will be met within existing resources.

3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

3.5.1 Where additional members are co-opted onto a Scrutiny Board, such members must comply with the provisions set out in the Member's Code of Conduct as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

3.6 Risk Management

3.6.1 As stated in paragraph 3.15 above, when Scrutiny Boards are considering the appointment of a co-opted member for a term of office, they should be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the course of the year in view of the Scrutiny Boards' wide ranging terms of reference.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- i) consider voluntary sector nomination and appoint Claire Hopkins as co-opted member, Young Lives Leeds to the Scrutiny Board for the remainder of this municipal year.
- ii) note the election of Louise Nichols as Parent Governor Representative (Primary) for a term of 4 years.

5.0 Background documents³

- None

³ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.