

Co-opted Members

Date: 8th September 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Council's Scrutiny arrangements are one of the key parts of the Council's governance arrangements. For a number of years, the Council's Constitution has made provision for the appointment of co-opted members to individual Scrutiny Boards.
- The Scrutiny Board held a remote consultative meeting on 9th June 2021 and during that meeting, the views of Members were sought in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members. This report therefore sets out the Board's position in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members, as informed by its discussions in June, for Members' consideration and formal approval.

Recommendations

Members are requested to formally agree the Board's position in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. In the majority of cases the appointment of co-opted members is optional and is determined by the relevant Scrutiny Board. However, there are also legislative requirements regarding the appointment of specific education representatives onto the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.
2. During the Scrutiny Board's consultative meeting on 9th June 2021, Members acknowledged the following appointments to the Scrutiny Board in accordance with legislative requirements:
 - Church of England diocese representative - Andrew Graham
 - Roman Catholic diocese representative - Tony Britten
 - Parent governor representative (Secondary) - Jacqueline Ward
 - Parent Governor Representative (Primary) - Kate Blacker
3. In addition to the above, the Scrutiny Board also discussed the options available to all Scrutiny Boards in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members.
4. In general terms, 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.
5. This report sets out the Board's position in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members, as informed by its discussions in June, for Members' consideration and formal approval.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

6. The appointment of non-voting teacher representation has been a longstanding approach adopted by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board. Members therefore noted and welcomed that non-voting co-opted Members, Celia Foote and Helen Bellamy, had been nominated again by the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) to continue their role on the Scrutiny Board in terms of representing school staff more broadly.
7. During the Board's meeting on 9th June 2021, the Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships also particularly encouraged exploration of options to have the voice of the third sector represented in the work of Scrutiny. Members acknowledged that the Board had previously co-opted a representative from Young Lives Leeds and therefore agreed to invite Young Lives Leeds to nominate a representative to join the Scrutiny Board again this year.
8. It is therefore proposed that Members approve the following non-voting co-opted member appointments to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for this municipal year:
 - Celia Foote – School Staff Representative
 - Helen Bellamy – School Staff Representative

- Laura Whitaker – Young Lives Leeds Representative (commencing on 15th September 2021)

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

9. This report reflects the views expressed by the Scrutiny Board during its consultative meeting on 9th June 2021.

What are the resource implications?

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

What are the legal implications?

11. 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.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

12. When Scrutiny Boards are considering the appointment of a standing 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.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

13. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council objectives and it is widely recognised that co-opted members can significantly aid the work of Scrutiny Boards.

Appendices

14. None.

Background papers

15. None.