Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 11 June

Title: Appointment of Non Voting Co-opted Member

Report authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Philip Slawther, Principal Committee Cordinator, 020 8489 2957
philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The report seeks formal approval of the re-appointment of a non voting co-opted Member to the Panel.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That a representative from Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches be appointed as a non voting co-opted Member of the Panel for the 2019/20 Municipal Year;

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 As outlined in the scrutiny protocol, each of the standing scrutiny panels have the power to appoint up to three non voting co-opted Members to assist them with their work.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The Panel could decide not to appoint any non voting co-opted Members or, alternatively, could decide to appoint two or three co-optees.

6. Background information

6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 made provision for the co-option of non-elected members to Overview and Scrutiny to bring additional expertise and skills to scrutiny work and to increase public engagement with scrutiny.

6.2 Within the current structure of scrutiny in Haringey, there is one overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four advisory panels, these being:

- Adults and Health

- Children and Young People
- Environment and Community Safety
- Housing and Regeneration

6.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consists of 5 non executive members and includes Haringey's statutory education representatives, who have voting rights solely on education matters.

6.4 Scrutiny panels are chaired by a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The membership of each panel consists of between 3 and 7 non executive members and is politically proportional as far as possible. The membership of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel also includes the statutory education representatives of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.5 In addition, each scrutiny panel is entitled to appoint up to three non-voting co-optees to assist scrutiny with its work. The terms of reference/arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny are set out in Part 2 (Article 6), Part 3 (Section B) and Part 4 (Section 6) of the Council's Constitution. Further information can be found via the link below:

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/council-constitution

6.6 By bringing a diverse spectrum of experience and adding a different perspective to many items, non voting co-optees are expected to add value to scrutiny by performing the following roles:

- To act as a non-party political voice for those who live and/or work in Haringey.
- To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and to bring an element of external challenge by representing the public.
- To establish good relations with members, officers and co-optees.
- To abide by the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution in terms of the rules and procedures for Overview and Scrutiny.

6.7 It is expected that non voting co-optees will:

- Attend formal meetings of the Panel, which are usually held in the evening.
- Attend additional meetings and evidence gathering sessions such as site visits.
- Prepare for meetings by reading the agenda papers and additional information to familiarise themselves with the issues being scrutinised.

- Prior to meetings consider questions they may wish to put to Cabinet Members, officers and external witnesses.

- Help the Panel to make practical suggestions for improvements to services.

- Assist in the preparation of reports and the formulation of recommendations.

- Contribute to the development of the annual scrutiny work programme.

- Keep abreast of key issues for the authority and bear these in mind when scrutinising services and making recommendations for improvement.

6.8 A key aspect of the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's work concerns community safety and Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches are a key local organisation with a role in this. They are therefore considered well placed to assist the Panel in its work. They have also previously been represented on a co-opted basis on scrutiny panels with a role in community safety and provided valuable input on relevant areas.

7 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

7.1 There will be no additional costs to the Council as a result of this decision.

Legal

7.2 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Part 4 Section G (3.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Constitution permits the Panel to appoint up to three people as non-voting co-optees.

7.3 The co-optee is not entitled to vote on recommendations before the Panel. Therefore, the co-optee is not bound by the Council's Code of Conduct (in Part 5 Section A of the Constitution) that includes the registration and declaration of interest. However, the co-optee should be required to comply with relevant parts of the General Obligations of the Code (in Paragraph 3) when attending the meetings and conducting the business of the Panel.

Equality

7.6 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

8.7 The proposals outlined in this report relate to the membership of the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel and carry no direct implications for the Council's general equality duty.

8 Use of Appendices

None.

9 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985