

Report for: Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 31st March 2025

Title: Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member

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

Lead Officer: Dominic O'Brien, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Ward affected: All

Report for Information

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek formal approval of the appointment of a non-voting co-opted Member to the Panel.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Evelyn Trimmingham be appointed as a non-voting co-opted Member of the Panel.
- 3.2 That the non-voting co-opted Members of the Panel for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year be confirmed as Helena Kania and Evelyn Trimmingham.
- 3.3 To note the revisions to the Protocol for Non-voting Co-opted Members as agreed by the Standards Committee on 10th March 2025.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Council recognises the valuable contribution that co-optees can make to the scrutiny process. Paragraph 3.1 of Part Four, Section G (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution states that each Scrutiny Panel shall be entitled to appoint up to three people as non-voting co-optees.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Panel could decide not to make any new appointments to its membership.

6. Background Information

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

- Adults & Health
- Children & Young People
- Climate, Community Safety & Environment
- Housing, Planning & Development

6.2 The specific functions for any Scrutiny Panels established is outlined in Article 6 of the Constitution at 6.3 (b) and 6.3 (c). The procedure by which this operates is detailed in the Scrutiny Protocol:

- The OSC shall establish four standing Scrutiny Panels, to examine designated public services.
- The OSC shall determine the terms of reference for each Scrutiny Panel.
- If there is any overlap between the business of the Panels, it is the responsibility of the OSC to resolve the issue.
- Areas which are not covered by the four standing Scrutiny Panels shall be the responsibility of the main OSC.
- The Chair of each Scrutiny Panel shall be a member of the OSC, as determined by the OSC at its first meeting.
- It is intended that each Scrutiny Panel shall be comprised of between 3 and 7 backbench or opposition members and be politically propionate as far as possible.
- Each Scrutiny Panel shall be entitled to appoint up to three non-voting co-optees. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel membership will include the statutory education representatives of OSC.

6.3 Haringey Council's Protocol for Non-voting Co-opted Members states that "Non-voting co-optees are intended to bring an additional element of external challenge to the work of the scrutiny panels. By bringing a diverse spectrum of experience and adding a different perspective to many items, they 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; and
- To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and bring an element of external challenge by representing the public.

6.4 It is expected that appointed 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.

- Establish good relations with members, officers and other co-optees.
- Abide by the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution in terms of the rules and procedures for Overview and Scrutiny; and
- Keep abreast of key issues for the authority and bear these in mind when scrutinising services and making recommendations for improvement.

- 6.5 Evelyn Trimingham met with the Chair of the Panel in July 2024 to discuss her relevant skills, knowledge and expertise, the role of the Scrutiny Panel and the importance of Adults and Health services to the residents of the borough. She is a member of the Housing Ombudsman Resident Panel and Chair of the Parent/Carer Panel for Haringey Family Hubs and describes these roles as helping to bring forward the voices of residents, ensuring that their needs are met with effective and empathetic solutions and shaping services that directly impact our community.
- 6.6 The appointment of Non-voting Co-opted members requires formal approval by the Panel and their role is guided by the Protocol for Non-Voting Co-opted Members.
- 6.7 Should the Panel approve Evelyn Trimingham's appointment, this would bring the number of Non-voting Co-opted members of the Panel to two out of a possible maximum of three. The Panel's other Non-voting Co-opted member is Helena Kania, who has contributed to scrutiny in Haringey since 2003.
- 6.8 Revisions to the Protocol for Non-voting Co-opted Members was revised by the Standards Committee in March 2025 and Scrutiny Panels will need to be mindful of the updated Protocol as part of the process for appointing Non-voting Co-opted Members for the 2025/26 municipal year.

7. Statutory Officers Comments

Legal

- 7.1 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint one or more sub-committee to discharge any of its functions. The establishment of Scrutiny Panels by the Committee falls within this power and is in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.
- 7.2 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.

Equality

- 7.3 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.

7.4 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work programme as well as individual pieces of work.

8 Use of Appendices

- 8.1 APPENDIX A – Report to Standard Committee, 10th March 2025
APPENDIX B - Protocol for Non-voting Co-opted Members (March 2025)