

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19th of June 2025

Title: Appointment of non – voting co-opted Members

Report authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Director of Legal and Governance

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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 appointment of two non – voting co-opted members to the Scrutiny Panels as required by the Constitution and the non – voting co-optee protocol agreed by Standards Committee in March 2025.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to appoint Amanda Bernard, Chair of SENDPower, a parent carer forum which represents the voices of SEND families in the borough to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. SendPower is a community organisation with an established contact with the Council and co -production partner. This appointment is endorsed by the Corporate Director for Children's Services.
- 1.3 The Committee is further asked to appoint Helena Kania to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel as a non – voting co-opted member. Helena has served as a scrutiny co-optee since 2003 and has expertise in the health sector, both public health and NHS. Helena represents disability Action Haringey and Public Voice. This appointment is endorsed by the Director for Adult Social Care.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Amanda Bernard be appointed to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel as a non voting co-opted member for the municipal year 2025/2026.
- 3.2 That Helena Kania be appointed to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel as a non – voting co-opted member for the municipal year 2025/26.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 As required by the Council's Constitution.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 No alternative options

6. Background information

- 6.1 In relation to scrutiny, the Local Government Act 2000 made provision for the co-option of non-elected members to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to bring additional expertise and skills to scrutiny work and to increase public engagement with scrutiny.
- 6.2 In January 2021 the Standards Committee agreed a protocol on non – voting co-opted members which put in place the process for recruitment, completion of register of interest form and made clear, adherence to the Member Code of Conduct.
- 6.3 The Standards Committee considered and agreed an updated protocol on non voting co-opted member appointments at their meeting in March 2025. This was in accordance with their responsibilities for maintaining high standards of conduct and considering amendments to the Constitution and recommending proposals to full Council for approval.
- 6.2 The updated and agreed the protocol attached at Appendix 1 responded to observations and comments made by the Constitution Working Group.
- 6.3 There was a need to update the protocol to ensure that it was as robust as possible and given that the last update was completed in 2021. The decision making for appointments of non – voting members was previously assigned, in the Constitution, to the scrutiny panels. This was felt to be an anomaly as the Panels do not have decision making powers. This responsibility has been added to the terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny Committee and updates to the Constitution agreed by Full Council on the 24th of March.
- 6.4.1 The Panels can appoint up to 3 non- voting members and nominations can come forward from established community groups or be individuals that provide additional expertise and skills.
- 6.4.2 Given the increased focus of scrutiny for the coming municipal year will be upon the budget and performance due the council's financial position, a wider advertisement of the non – voting member position will be taken forward next year. Current non voting co-optees were written to and invited to express an interest in the roles and responded in accordance with the application form and have been endorsed by senior officers.
- 6.4.3 The applications have been considered against the protocol as well as the endorsements of senior officers.

6 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & Governance, Equalities)

Finance

- 7.1 There is no payments for non - voting co-opted members and no financial implications.

Legal

- 7.2 The Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Section 9FA Local Government Act 2000 provides that an Overview and Scrutiny committee of a local council may include persons who are not members of the Council. Part 4 Section G (3.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as set out in the Council's Consitution, applies.

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 three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 7.5 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

7 Use of Appendices

Non – Voting Member Protocol.

8 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985