

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		23 September 2021	
REPORT OF:		Cllr Jenny Molineux, Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Paddy Short, Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Ben Caulfield, Scrutiny and Policy Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Appointment of Co-optees	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 For Council to consider recommendations for co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. **Recommendations**

Subject to Council having voted in favour of the recommendation in the previous report that the requirement for co-optees to be non-political is removed:

- 2.1 That Council approves the reappointment of Bernard Dawson MBE as co-optee to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 That Council approves the appointment of Paul Barton as co-optee to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 That Council approves the appointment of Jean Battle MBE as co-optee to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4 That Council approves the appointment of Kimberley Whitehead as co-optee to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.5 That Council approves the reappointment of Bernard Dawson MBE as co-optee to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 2.6 That Council approves the appointment of Doug Hayes as co-optee to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.7 That Council approves the appointment of Stephen Button as co-optee to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.8 That Council approves that the above appointments be made until the end of the 2022/23 Municipal Year.
- 2.9 That Council notes that, should the above appointments be approved, there remains one vacancy for a co-optee on the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which may be filled in year with approval from Council.
- 2.10 That Council thanks Honorary Alderman Ian Ormeord, who served as a co-optee for several years on the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 The Councils Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule C2 states:

“Up to four members of the public may be appointed to each Overview and Scrutiny Committee as non-voting co-optees, if they are deemed to have relevant experience of matters falling within the remit of that Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The intention is that such co-optees will be non-political”.

(i) Co-optees may be appointed following nomination by a councillor or following an application received directly from a member of the public.

(ii) Applications received directly from the public will be considered first at the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee will consider the knowledge and experience of the applicant relevant to the terms of reference or work programme of the Committee. If the majority of the Overview and Scrutiny members support the appointment of the applicant, the proposed appointment will be presented to Council for approval.

(iii) Nominations received from councillors will be presented to the Council for approval, if supported by the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In reaching a decision, the Council will consider the knowledge and experience of the nominee relevant to the terms of reference or work programme of the Committee.”

The requirement for co-optees to be non-political was considered by Council in a report earlier on the agenda for this meeting, with the recommendation that this requirement be removed for the reasons set out in that report.

- 3.2 The list below shows those who were nominated as co-optees by the Communities and Wellbeing Committee alongside the reasons for nomination, at its meeting on 8th July 2021.

- Bernard Dawson MBE – is an Honorary Freeman of the Borough, having served as a District and County Councillor for many years. Bernard has been previously appointed to Overview and Scrutiny Committees as both a Councillor and more recently as a co-optee.
- Paul Barton is an Honorary Alderman, former Councillor, previous Mayor and a local businessman. Paul has all the attributes to bring a common sense private sector business argument to the role of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Paul has been a Scrutiny co-optee since 2016.
- Jean Battle MBE is an Honorary Alderman and former District and County Councillor. During her near 30 year role as a Councillor, Jean has been Leader of Hyndburn Borough Council and a Cabinet member at Lancashire County Council. Jean has strong links with many local charities and was awarded an MBE in 2020. Jean’s experience will add real value to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Kimberely Whitehead has been an active member of the community in Hyndburn for a number of years. She was very active within the Hyndburn Hub while it was established and has now gone on to be a trustee at Hyndburn CVS. Kimberley is Secretary of Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum as well being a committee member of ACE. She is also involved with many of the charities and community groups in Hyndburn including being Secretary of Hyndburn Baby Bank. She has a keen interest in Scrutiny and has attended several meetings as a member of the public.

3.3 The following were nominated as co-optees by the Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th July:

- Bernard Dawson MBE is an Honorary Freeman of the Borough, having served as a District and County Councillor for many years. Bernard has been previously appointed to Overview and Scrutiny Committees as both a Councillor and more recently as a co-optee.
- Doug Hayes is an Honorary Alderman and former Councillor, who served as a Councillor for Oswaldtwistle for 24 years, was Mayor in 2000/01 and the Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for several years. His experience could add value to the Committee.
- Stephen Button is a former Councillor who served on the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee previously, notably playing an active role in the green review conducted in 2019.

3.4 No further applications or nominations were received.

3.5 If the recommendations are approved, there will be one vacant co-optee position remaining on the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Council could choose to reject any of the recommendations, but no other nominations or applications have been received for the co-optee positions.

5. Consultations

5.1 None

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None
Legal and human rights implications	None
Assessment of risk	None
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not Applicable

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

7.1 *Agenda, reports and minutes of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th July 2021*

<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=2628&Ver=4>

Agenda, reports and minutes of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th July 2021

<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=2657&Ver=4>

