

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		16 th January 2025	
REPORT OF:		Cllr Jodi Clements, Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Stephen Button, Chair of the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Susan Gardner, 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 the recommendation for a co-opted member to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- 1.2 For Council to consider the recommendation for the remaining co-optee position on the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be reserved for a 'young person'; and
- 1.3 For Council to consider the recommendations for co-opted members to the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of Sandie Dent as a co-optee member to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- 2.2 That Council approves the reservation of the remaining vacant co-optee position on the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee for a young person (between the age of 18-25 years);
- 2.3 That Council approve the appointments of Christine Heys and Eddy O'Brien as co-optee members to the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
- 2.4 That Council approves the above co-optee appointments to cover a period of 2 municipal years until the end of the 2025/26.

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.

(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.”

3.2 The Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee have previously appointed two co-optee members, Jean Battle and Jackie Rawstron with two vacant co-optee positions remaining.

3.3 The Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee felt that a young person would provide greater balance to discussion and be more representative of the community and therefore, have recommended that one co-optee position was reserved for this purpose.

3.4 The Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee, therefore, still had one vacant co-optee position remaining with three nominations received for the post. At the meeting held on 8th October, it was felt that there was insufficient information on the three nominees to make a fully informed recommendation. Each of the three nominees were nominated by a Member of the Council and therefore, because all supporting Councillors would be present and in the interest of fairness, Committee made no recommendation and decided that Council would be a better forum for discussions to determine the final co-optee post. However, due to a delay in the report being presented to Council, it was determined that the Committee should seek additional information regarding the three nominations and that the Committee would use this to make a recommendation at their next meeting held on 3rd December, to Full Council. A report was, therefore, submitted to this meeting and, after consideration, Committee determined that Sandie Dent should be recommended to Full Council, as a co-optee of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3.5 The Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee have previously appointed two co-optee members, Tim O’Kane and Richard Downie and recommended that the further two vacancies were filled by Eddy O’Brien and Christine Heys.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Council may choose not to reserve a place for a young person or appoint the recommended individuals to the vacant Overview and Scrutiny co-optee positions. This is not recommended as the relevant committees have considered all nominations for the co-optee positions and made their recommendations accordingly.

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 & Scrutiny Committee on 8th October 2024-*
<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=2904&Ver=4>

Agenda, reports and minutes of Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 3rd December 2024. - [Hyndburn Borough Council](#)

Agenda, reports and minutes of Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 15th December - [Hyndburn Borough Council](#)