

Proposed changes to committee appointments

Lead Member(s): Councillor Bill Revans, Leader of the Council and Lead Member Governance and Communications

Lead Officer: David Clark, Service Director – Governance, Democratic and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

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1. Summary

This report sets out the proposed appointment of 4 vo-opted members to the Harbour Management Advisory Committee, the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health and the appointment of an employer's representative to the Pension Fund Board.

2. Recommendations

The Council:

- i) Is recommended to approve the following appointments as co-opted members on the Harbour Management Advisory Committee:
 - Neil Adams
 - Nick Dunsby
 - Stuart Scorgie
 - Richard Parsons
- ii) will receive nominations at the meeting and be asked to approve the appointment of the Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health.
- iii) Is recommended to approve the appointment of Alison Wyatt as an employer's representative on the Pension Fund Board.

3. Reasons for recommendations

To ensure appointments are made to vacancies in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the terms of reference for the specific committees concerned and the Pension Board.

4. Background

Harbour Management Advisory Committee

- 4.1 At its meeting on 20 December 2023 Full Council agreed to the establishment of a Harbour Management Advisory Committee.
- 4.2 The Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to appoint a committee to advise the Executive as Duty Holder and allows the committee to consist of both members of the Council and co-opted members. The Duty Holder is responsible for ensuring that the organisation complies with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC). The PMSC sets out a national standard for marine safety at ports and harbours.
- 4.3 Establishing the Committee with both members of the Council and external co-opted members strengthens governance by widening the pool for membership of the committee and allowing members of the wider Council and external appointees who are stakeholder representatives or individuals with valuable skills and experiences to participate in advising the Executive as Duty Holder, and in doing so achieving the balance of skills required to effectively govern ports in the County.
- 4.4 The decision made on 20 December 2023 granted authority to Service Director - Regulatory and Operational in consultation with the Service Director - Governance, Democratic & Legal Services to conduct a skills audit for the Harbour Management Advisory Committee and to conduct the process for the recruitment of appropriately skilled co-opted members to the Committee and make recommendations to Full Council for appointment of the co-opted members.
- 4.5 Following the completion of the recruitment process, this report sets out the four proposed appointments for Full Council to approve.

Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health

- 4.6 The former Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health, Councillor Graham Oakes was appointed by the Leader of the Council on 1 September 2024 to the Executive Lead Member role for Public Health, Climate Change and Environment.
- 4.7 An Executive Lead Member cannot be a member of a Scrutiny Committee and therefore Councillor Oakes is no longer a member of the Scrutiny Committee-Adults and Health.

- 4.8 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Full Council appoints the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's committees. Full Council will receive nominations for the role of Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health at its meeting on 26 September.

Pension Fund Board

- 4.9 The Pension Fund Board is established under Section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended).
- 4.10 The terms of reference for the Board and its membership are set out in Part D7 of the Council's Constitution.
- 4.11 There will be an employer representative vacancy at the end of September 2024. Finance Officers have sought nominations from employers to fill the vacancy and received a single nomination, Alison Wyatt, who is the Chief Financial Officer for the Oak Partnership, a multi-academy trust with a number of academies being employers within the Pension Fund.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Councillor Andy Sully, Harbour Management Advisory Committee Chair and Jessica Tyson, the Council's Acting Harbour Master have both been fully engaged in the recruitment process for the co-opted members of the Harbour Management Advisory Committee.
- 5.2 Political group leaders are aware of the process for nominations to be proposed at the Council meeting regarding the Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee-Adults and Health.

6. Legal, Equalities and Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Members Scheme of Allowances 2024/25 enables co-opted members of committees to receive an annual allowance of £1,000 per annum and also claim travel and subsistence allowances. These costs will be funded by the Members Budget 2024/25.
- 6.2 The Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee-Adults and Health receives a Special Responsibility Allowance of £ 3,875 per annum and is also able claim travel and subsistence allowances under the Members Scheme of Allowances 2024/25. These costs will be funded by the Members Budget 2024/25.
- 6.3 Employers representatives on the Pensions Fund Board are not entitled to an allowance under the Members Scheme of Allowances.

6.4 All co-opted members are required to sign and adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct.

7. Background papers

- Somerset Council's Constitution
- Report to Council's Annual General Meeting 22 May 2024 regarding committee appointments

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

Report assurance

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark, Monitoring Officer	17.9.24
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix, Deputy S151	17.9.24
Executive Director	Alyn Jones, Executive Director Strategy, Workforce and Localities	17.9.24
Consulted:	Councillor Name	
Political Group Leaders	Councillor Bill Revans, Leader of the Council	17.9.24
	Councillor David Fothergill, Opposition Leader	17.9.24
	Councillor Leigh Redman, Labour group leader	17.9.24
	Councillor Dave Mansell, Green group leader	17.9.24
	Councillor John Hunt, Independent group leader	17.9.24