



Housing Scrutiny Committee
16 January 2018

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Performance Policy &
Partnerships**

Proposed appointments as co-opted members

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	0
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Mark Cairns, Policy & Scrutiny Manager, mark.cairns@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The paper sets out proposed co-opted members to the committee, following a selection process as previously agreed by members.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the committee proposes that Michele Lonergan is appointed as its leaseholder co-optee, and Karin Jaeger as its tenant co-optee, at the Council meeting on 22nd January 2018.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Following the decision of Cabinet in April 2017 that housing management services to the council's tenants and leaseholders would be provided by the council itself, the Housing Scrutiny Committee was established during the May 2017 Council meeting, and allowed for co-optees to be included as the committee saw appropriate. Having taken into account the views of the BHP member-resident panel, and following discussion at the committee's work planning meeting, the committee agreed at its meeting on 27th July 2017 that it was important to ensure the voices of council tenants and leaseholders continue to be heard, by co-opting one of each to the committee.

- 3.2 Drawing upon the experience of other authorities, members decided to select co-optees on the basis of their skills and experience appears to yield the best chance of valuable contributions to the work of the committee.
- 3.3 An advertisement inviting applications was placed on the council website, as well as in BHP's Your Voice e-newsletter which was delivered to tenants and leaseholders. Following an initially low number of applications, the deadline was extended from August to November, and the advertisement was circulated via text message to tenants and leaseholders. As this meant that co-optees would only be able to join the committee from February 2018 onwards, the term of the co-options was extended till the end of the 2018/19 municipal year. These steps led to a greater number of applications being received.
- 3.9 Following an exercise to remove one incomplete application and another from a resident living outside of Brent, the chair, along with Cllr Hylton and the council's Policy & Scrutiny Manager interviewed applicants, according to relevant knowledge, skills and experience criteria which had been identified in the application pack.
- 3.10 The panel was very impressed with the calibre of candidates they interviewed, and was grateful to all of those tenants and leaseholders who were willing to offer their time and insight to help the committee in its work. After a very difficult decision, they are pleased to propose that Michele Lonergan (leaseholder), and Karin Jaeger (tenant) be appointed to the committee as co-optees.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As agreed at Full Council in May 2017 the cost of the co-opted member allowances will be £226 per person (which is the same as the for education co-opted members on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee). Schedule 1 (p328), Part 8 of the Constitution, sets out the payment for each co-opted member at £226 per person. The maximum cost is expected to be £452 in any one financial year for these co-optees (i.e. £226 for 2 members). The cost of the allowances will be funded from, and can be contained within, the overall Members Allowances budget.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council has the power to co-opt people from outside the council to sit on scrutiny committees. The appointment of co-opted members is a non-delegable Full Council function and the persons appointed would not be permitted to vote.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 Appointed Co-opted members will be supported to ensure that they fully understand their role and responsibilities.

Report sign off:

PETER GADSDON

Director of Performance Policy &
Partnerships