

Eden District Council

Scrutiny Committee
17 May 2007

Scrutiny Co-optees

Director of Corporate and Legal Services

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider whether to appoint scrutiny co-optees for the 2007-8 municipal year.

2 Report Details

- 2.1 Hilary Thornley and Anthony Williams were appointed as co-optees to the Scrutiny Committee at the Council meeting on 20 July 2006. Their terms of office ran from July 2006 until the end of the 2006-7 municipal year. This means that their terms have now expired.
- 2.2 Ms Thornley and Mr Williams have been active members of scrutiny at Eden, contributing to meetings of the Scrutiny Committee and participating in the various scrutiny review groups. Mr Williams is a nominee from the Cumbrian Association of Local Councils (CALC).
- 2.3 If Scrutiny Committee is minded to do so, it may extend one or both of the co-optees' terms of office by one year. This would, of course, depend on Ms Thornley and Mr Williams agreeing to serve for a further year.
- 2.4 If the Scrutiny Committee do not wish to extend the co-optees' terms of office, or if Ms Thornley and/or Mr Williams do not wish to stay on, the Committee may wish to appoint further co-optees. Notices may be placed in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald and with the Cumbrian Association of Local Councils to advertise for vacancies.
- 2.5 The maximum number of scrutiny co-optees that the Council can appoint is four.

3 Policy Framework

- 3.1 Under the procedural rules, the Council is able to appoint up to four people as co-optees on the Scrutiny Committee.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 A scrutiny co-optee is not able to vote by law. A co-optee is however able to contribute in all other respects in the activities and functions of the Scrutiny Committee.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Co-optees do not receive allowances. However, they are entitled to be reimbursed for their travel expenses.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 There is a risk in advertising for new scrutiny co-optees as any new people may not be aware of the activities and functions of the Committee or conversant with the practices and procedures of local government.

7. Recommendations:

Scrutiny Committee should decide:

1. Whether or not they wish to extend the terms of Hilary Thornley and Anthony Williams for one year.
2. Whether or not they wish to advertise for any new co-optees.

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