

REPORT TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CO-OPTees FOR 2026/27

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	3rd July 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Not applicable
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No
Purpose of Report: Allocation of Co-optees to Scrutiny Panels for 2026/27	
Recommendations 1. That the allocation of scrutiny co-optees for the 2026/27 municipal year, as set out in paragraph 2.2, be approved. 2. That the existing serving co-optees be thanked for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of scrutiny in Kirklees.	
Reasons for Recommendations At the beginning of each municipal year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is required to appoint/re-appoint co-opted members to the Scrutiny Panels.	
Resource Implications: Not applicable	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall – 22.06.2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Samantha Lawton – 22.06.2026

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Scrutiny Co-optees are lay people, resident in Kirklees who have expressed an interest in being involved with the work of the Scrutiny Panels; to help contribute to the transparency of decision-making, the shaping of strategies and policies and the delivery of services in Kirklees.
- 1.2 The co-optees are allocated to one of the Panels and bring an additional external, independent perspective to the debates at meetings.
- 1.3 At the beginning of each municipal year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is required to re-appoint the scrutiny co-optees and allocate them to Panels.
- 1.4 The voluntary co-optees are appointed through recruitment, as and when appropriate, and a recruitment exercise was undertaken in late 2025/early 2026.
- 1.5 Those appointed have received an induction, met the relevant Chair and Governance Officers and attended the last meeting of the relevant Panel in 2025/26.
- 1.6 Co-optees are required to sign and abide by a Code of Conduct.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 At the start of the municipal year 2025/26 there were three co-optees involved in scrutiny. A further co-optee was appointed in September 2025. All of the existing co-optees have agreed to continue.
- 2.2 The table below includes both the current, and newly recruited, co-optees and the proposed allocations for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Name	Allocation 2025/26	Proposed Allocation 2026/27
Shahid Ali	n/a	Children's
Chloe Baldry	n/a	Environment and Climate Change
Helen Clay	Health and Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care
Tom Donohoe	n/a	Children's
Kevin Evans	Environment and Climate Change (from September 2025)	Environment and Climate Change
Chris Friend	Regeneration and Growth	Regeneration and Growth
Kim Taylor	Health and Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care

- 3. Implications for the Council**
 - 3.1 Council Plan**

Co-optees may have specific skills, knowledge and experience which can assist scrutiny in its work, providing an alternative, external perspective. Their input helps to contribute to transparency, effective and accountable decision-making, and policy development across the whole range of services the Council provides and towards achievement of the priorities and shared outcomes set out within the Council Plan.
 - 3.2 Financial Implications**

Not applicable.
 - 3.3 Legal Implications**

Not applicable.
 - 3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable.
 - 3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

Not applicable.
- 4. Consultation**

No consultation was appropriate in respect of the contents of this report.
- 5. Engagement**

No engagement was necessary in respect of the contents of this report.
- 6. Options**
 - 6.1 Options considered**

Not applicable
 - 6.2 Reasons for recommended option**

Not applicable.
- 7. Next steps and timelines**

Subject to the decision of the Committee, the co-optees will be advised of the confirmation of their appointment for 2026/27 and their allocated Panel.
- 8. Contact officer**

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- 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

None
- 10. Appendices**

None
- 11. Service Director responsible**

Samantha Lawton, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning