

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> ALL
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Housing Scrutiny	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Property Management	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Housing Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE</b> 16 July 2024
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b> This report provides information on the process of co-opting members to the Council.  <b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b>  No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Laura Gillett Portfolio Lead Supporting Communities 020 7074 1838 laura.gillett@camden.gov.uk	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>  That the Housing Scrutiny Committee approves three co-opted members to join for the 2024/25 municipal year in line with the Chair’s recommendations.	

Signed:



Date: 5 July 2024

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the proposal to include three co-opted members on to Housing Scrutiny Committee and seek approval from Committee members on the candidates put forward by the Chair.

## **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution (part 4: item 3) includes provision for co-opted members of Scrutiny committees.
- 2.2 The Constitution states that: "Each scrutiny committee shall be entitled to appoint a number of people as nonvoting co-optees. Non-Voting co-optees are members of the committees and as such count towards the quorum as part of the 'elected membership.'"
- 2.3 Housing Scrutiny Committee currently has three vacant positions for co-opted members, this being the maximum number allowed under the Constitution. The Chair has stated that these roles should be recruited to and the co optees eligible to join the Committee for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

## **3. Recruiting to co-opted vacancies**

- 3.1 One of the benefits of having co-opted members is that they can enable a broader discussion and an 'outside view' of services received. There is also an opportunity to draw on expertise as well as a member's lived experience. This can complement the existing skills, knowledge and experience of current Committee members.
- 3.2 As per previous agreement by the Committee one Co-optee resident member had been recommended for the Municipal year of 2024/25. Recruitment was recommended to fill the remaining 2 Co-optee roles.
- 3.3 To help achieve this, the Council sent adverts via its "Govdelivery" online platform inviting Council residents to volunteer as co-opted members. Expressions of interest, supported by a short, written statement (a maximum of 100 words) were to be provided by Sunday 16 June 2024.
- 3.4 The Council received 140 applications from Camden Tenants and Leaseholders. Following a shortlisting process and a series of interviews, two co-optees are being recommended to the Housing Scrutiny Committee in July 2024 for the current Municipal Year (2024/25).
- 3.5 One of the proposed co-optees is a Private Sector Tenant, one is a Council Leaseholder and one is a Council Tenant. It is noted that when the Committee receive items concerning other tenures, e.g. the Private Rented Sector or

Housing Associations, representatives of these tenures may attend and ask questions with the Chair's permission. The Co-optees being proposed are:

- Vic Seedman
- Larissa Hope
- Charles Bertlin

3.6 Later in the year the Council will invite applications for the 2025/26 Municipal years from Council tenants and leaseholders, in addition to representatives from Housing Associations and the Private Rented Sector.

#### **4. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

4.1 There are no resource implications arising for the Council.

#### **5. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising for the Council.

#### **6. Environmental Implications**

6.1 There are none.

**REPORT ENDS**