

## Full Council

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<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Co-Option</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>13 June 2023</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Mandy Sturdy, Town Clerk Lizzie Fuller, Committee Services &amp; Processes Officer</b>

### Action Required

1. To consider the six applications received for the Councillor Vacancy. Each candidate has been invited to speak for up to 2 minutes each.
2. To co-opt a Councillor for the Thame North Ward, to serve for the remaining term of office, until May 2027.
3. To approve that, subject to confirmation from the co-opted member, they be appointed to fill the vacancies on the Planning & Environment and Policy & Resources committees.

### Background

4. Following the election, a vacancy arose in the North Ward.
5. In line with requirements to fill the vacancy by co-option within 60 days of the 9 May 2023, applications were open from 11 May 2023 to 6 June 2023.
6. Six applications were received for the Councillor Vacancy (Appendixes A – F).
7. The council is now asked to consider the applications received. The chosen candidate must receive a clear majority of votes. A guidance note for co-option at a Council Meeting is attached (Appendix G).
8. There is currently a vacancy on each of the Planning & Environment and Policy & Resources committees. In order for the co-opted member to join committees as soon as possible (and not wait until the next Full Council in August), Members are asked to approve that these vacancies be filled by the co-opted member, subject to their agreement.
9. The options for the co-opted member to be considered for initial membership to the Strategy Project Working Group should also be approved subject to relevant skills and their agreement.

## Voting

10. From an administrative point of view, given that there are 6 applications, it would be preferable to take the vote by ballot (this must be requested by a Member). Members should be aware that any vote, including a ballot, is subject to a recorded vote if requested by a member<sup>1</sup>, therefore the Town Clerk and Committee Services & Processes Officer will keep a record of the voting.
11. A candidate must receive a majority vote in order to be co-opted. For example, if all 15 Councillors are present, a candidate needs to receive at least 8 votes. For example, if the vote fell 7-5-3, then the candidate scoring 3 would be removed and the process would be repeated until one candidate reached 8 votes.

## Risk Assessment

12. It is important that the Town Council addresses any shortfalls in its membership, so it is fully able to represent its community.

## Legal Powers:

- Local Government Act S89
- The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006

## Recommendation

### *It is recommended...*

- i) To co-opt a Councillor for the North Ward, to serve for the remaining term of office, until May 2027.*
- ii) To approve that subject to confirmation from the co-opted member, that they be appointed to fill the vacancies on the Planning & Environment and Policy & Resources committees.*

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<sup>1</sup> Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 13(2)