

Delegated Decision Report

12 November 2020

Subject: Citizens' Assembly on climate change – appointment of Oversight Panel

Report of: Head of Communications, Engagement and Organisational Development

Portfolio: All

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to establish an Oversight Panel for the North of Tyne Citizens' Assembly on climate change.

Recommendations

The Interim Head of Paid Service is recommended to approve the establishment of an Oversight Panel for the North of Tyne Citizens' Assembly on climate change. There are no financial costs associated with the Oversight Panel.

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

- 1.1. In February 2020 the NTCA Cabinet approved plans to hold a Citizens' Assembly on climate change and authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Investment Panel and Portfolio Holder (the Mayor), to finalise arrangements, working within a budget of £80,000.
- 1.2. These arrangements included the establishment of an Oversight Panel to work with the chosen provider (Shared Future) and determine the topic and questions to be put to be considered by residents and members of the public who will make up the Citizens' Assembly.
- 1.3. The background paper to the Cabinet decision envisaged a mixed panel including officers from the NTCA and its 3 constituent authorities and stakeholders representing different interests in the wider community. The suggested composition was as follows:
 1. Independent Chair
 2. Officer (technical expert) from the North of Tyne Combined Authority
 3. Officer (technical expert) from Newcastle City Council
 4. Officer (technical expert) from North Tyneside Council
 5. Officer (technical expert) from Northumberland Council
 6. Academic expert on Citizens' Assembly methodology
 7. Academic expert on climate science and/or practical implications such as planning or transport
 8. Representative from business community
 9. Representative from unions
 10. Representative from voluntary sector
 11. Representative from environmental groups
 12. Secretariat provided by North of Tyne Combined Authority
- 1.4. In regular consultation with the portfolio holder (the Mayor) officers worked to identify suitable candidates for these positions taking into account expertise, the ultimate gender balance of the

panel, and the need to reflect the unique geography of the North of Tyne region with its mix of city, coast and countryside.

1.5. The recommended membership of the panel is as follows:

	Role	Name	Organisation/Title
1	Independent Chair	Olivia Grant	Newcastle Futures
2	Officer (technical expert) from the North of Tyne Combined Authority	Leanne Wilson	Policy & Economy Advisor (Climate Change)
3	Officer (technical expert) from Newcastle City Council	Adrian McLoughlin	Climate Change Advisor
4	Officer (technical expert) from North Tyneside Council	Paul Nelson	Environmental Sustainability & Street Lighting Manager
5	Officer (technical expert) from Northumberland Council	Mark Roberts	Commercial Team Manager
6	Academic expert on Citizens' Assembly methodology	Dr Stephen Elstub	Newcastle University (Dept of Politics)
7	Academic expert on climate science and/or practical implications	Dr Sara Walker	Newcastle University (Director of Centre for Energy)
8	Representative from business community	Marianne O'Sullivan	North East Chamber of Commerce
9	Representative from unions	Sarah Kilpatrick	National Education Union
10	Representative from voluntary sector	Adrienne Attorp	Tyne & Wear Citizens
11	Representative from environmental groups	Dr Meryl Batchelder	UN-accredited climate change teacher / Extinction Rebellion
12	Secretariat provided by North of Tyne Combined Authority	Tom Sharman	Engagement Officer

1.6. A brief biographical summary of the external members of the panel follows:

Olivia Grant (Independent Chair), Newcastle Futures

After training for the Youth Employment Service Olivia worked in various roles in the North West, returning to Newcastle in 1979. Since then she has worked at a senior level in local government, and has held various government and public appointments: Chair of the Learning and Skills Council, County Durham, until December 2003; Board member of the Port of Tyne Authority (2000-2006); the Regional Chair of Culture North East until March 2009; Vice-Chair of SUSTAINED a body charged with the creation and oversight of the regional strategy for Sustainable Development until May 2010.

In addition to these public appointments Mrs Grant was Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor at the University (2002-2011), Vice-Chair of the Newcastle Building Society until April 2008, she Chaired the Newcastle Building Society Pension Trustees until 2012, and was Managing Director of a small Bio Science company until December 2011. In 2014 she became Chair of Your Homes Newcastle.

Her voluntary work includes serving as an Honorary Vice-President of Newcastle Council for Voluntary Services. She was appointed OBE for Services to Training in 1994 and a Deputy Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear in 2002. She has been appointed as a Public Assessor for the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments and chairs major national public appointments. She currently chairs Newcastle Futures, a body set up by the City Council in Newcastle. In addition to her service on Newcastle University's Court Mrs Grant is a member of the University Development Trust.

Dr Stephen Elstub (Academic expert on Citizens' Assemblies), Newcastle University

Dr Stephen Elstub joined the Department of Politics at Newcastle University in 2015. His main research interests are in the theory and practice of democracy, democratic innovation, public opinion, political communication, civil society and citizen participation, all viewed through the lens of deliberative democracy.

He has held visiting positions at the 'Centre of Democracy', at Åbo Akademi University and the 'Centre for Deliberative and Global Governance', at the University of Canberra and has been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts since 2008.

Stephen has been a POST Academic Fellow at the UK Parliament and an Academic Fellow at the Scottish Parliament, working on how parliamentary committees can be linked with mini-publics such as Citizens' Assemblies and Citizens' Juries.

He has been involved in a number of research projects funded by a variety of organisations including: the Economic and Social Research Council, Edinburgh City Council, Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the House of Commons, Involve, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, NESTA, Scottish Government Social Research and UK Research and Innovation. Stephen has also acted as an expert advisor to the European, UK, and Scottish Parliaments; and to the Scottish government.

Dr Sara Walker (Academic expert on climate science/practical implications), Newcastle University

Dr Sara Walker is currently a Reader in Energy, and Director of The Centre for Energy, in the School of Engineering. Her research is on energy efficiency and renewable energy at the building scale.

In September 2015 Dr Walker joined Newcastle University in the School of Mechanical and Systems Engineering. She was Degree Programme Director for the MSc Renewable Energy Flexible Training Programme (REFLEX) and MSc Renewable Energy and Enterprise Management (REEM) until 2017. In 2017 she became Director of Expertise for Infrastructure research and member of the School of Engineering Executive Board.

In September 2019 Dr Walker became Director of the Newcastle University Centre of Research Excellence for Energy, known as The Centre for Energy.

Her research continues to focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency in buildings, energy policy, energy resilience, and whole energy systems.

Marianne O'Sullivan (Representative from business community), NE Chamber of Commerce

Marianne campaigns on issues around transport, infrastructure and development on behalf of businesses in the North East. She works as part of the policy team to influence policy at a local, regional and national level as part of the Chamber's overall aim for a stronger North East.

The North East Chamber of Commerce is North East England's largest member organisation, representing around 3,000 businesses. From small and medium-sized enterprises to multi-nationals, the Chamber brings business people together across a range of member events and ensure they get access to the best possible support.

Sarah Kilpatrick (Representative from unions), National Education Union

Sarah is an Art Teacher and National Education Union representative.

The National Education Union stands up for the future of education by bringing together more than 450,000 teachers, lecturers, support staff and leaders working in maintained and independent schools and colleges across the UK.

Adrienne Attorp (Representative from voluntary sector), Tyne & Wear Citizens

Adrienne is an active member of Tyne & Wear Citizens.

She is currently undertaking a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy, studying at Newcastle University as part of Teagasc's Walsh Fellowship Programme. She is interested in agriculture policy, sustainable food systems and food sovereignty.

Originally from Canada, Adrienne came to the UK to study an MSc in Agriculture and Development at the University of Reading. Upon graduating, she spent 6 years working in the charity sector, first with urban farming charity 'Growing People Project' in Milton Keynes, then with horticultural social enterprise 'Cultivate London', in west London.

Tyne & Wear Citizens is the local chapter of Citizens UK. Citizens UK organises communities to act together for power, social justice and the common good. They are the home of community organising in the UK, with diverse civil society alliances in London, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Birmingham, Wales, Manchester, Tyne & Wear and Leeds. They develop the leadership capacity of their members so they can hold politicians and other decision-makers to account on the issues that matter to them.

Dr Meryl Batchelder (Representative from environmental groups), UN-accredited climate change teacher / Extinction Rebellion

Dr Meryl Batchelder is a UN-accredited climate change teacher and teaches science at Corbridge Middle School. She previously led the UN Climate Change Teacher training initiative in the North of Tyne. She is also a committed climate change activist with Extinction Rebellion.

- 1.7. There is no financial cost associated with the Oversight Panel and its members will not be paid.

2. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 2.1. The Oversight Panel is a key mechanism for ensuring the Citizens' Assembly on climate change functions effectively.

3. Key Risks

- 3.1. The key risk is the management of citizen expectations; this is a complex area where solutions may be system wide or outside the scope of local leadership and delivery.

4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

- 4.1. There are no financial implications for the Oversight Panel itself. The plan to hold a Citizens Assembly was approved by Cabinet in February and is therefore included in the 2020/21 Investment Fund budgeted expenditure.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no legal implications.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1. From the outset we aimed for an Oversight Panel with a diverse membership, paying particular attention on the need for gender balance and to give space and voice to individuals who are not included in similar panels as a matter of course.

7. Inclusive Economy Implications

- 7.1. The blueprint for the Oversight Panel explicitly required a mixture of stakeholders from different parts of the economy along with technical experts from the NTCA and its constituent authorities.

8. Climate Change Implications

- 8.1. The Oversight Panel will help the Citizens' Assembly to drive forward action to tackle climate change in the North of Tyne.

9. Consultation and Engagement

- 9.1. A range of organisations were consulted and helped shape the plans for a Citizens' Assembly as outlined in the Cabinet agenda for 25 February 2020. These included deliberative democracy providers, facilitators and staff involved in other Citizens' Assemblies, academic experts on the methodology of Citizens' Assemblies, environmental groups, and the voluntary sector.
- 9.2. The Portfolio Holder (the Mayor) has been consulted on the membership of the Oversight Panel.

10. Appendices

- 10.1. None.

11. Contact Officers

- 11.1 Tom Sharman
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12. Glossary

- 12.1 None

13. Sign-off

1) Mayor and Portfolio holder Yes	2) Director/SMT Yes	3) Chief Finance Officer: Yes	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes	5) Head of Paid Service: Yes
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