

## Northstowe Town Council

Report prepared by: Town Clerk; report last updated: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Report to: **Full Council**

Meeting date: **22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

Report for agenda item: **76/22-23 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR**

- To receive a report with prospective candidates' information who have applied for the four casual vacancies of Town Councillor, following the uncontested elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- To receive presentations from candidates present at the meeting, for a maximum of 2 minutes each.
- To vote on who are to be co-opted as Town Councillors, in accordance with the resolution passed under item 55/22-23(3) and the Town Council's Co-Option Policy.
- For those candidates voted in who are present and wish to join as a Councillor straight away, to sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and join the Councillors at the meeting.

### Background

Following the uncontested elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Town Council's number of Councillors reduced from 15 to 11.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Council meeting (item 39/22-23) the Council decided to co-opt to fill these vacancies.

At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, a Co-option Policy with updated co-option application form were approved by the Council (item 55/22-23), following which promotion of the Councillor vacancies took place.

The Town Council has received five applications from prospective candidates.

Initial checks have been made on eligibility, based on the information supplied by the applicants, and all are deemed eligible to stand for co-option.

### Candidate information

Please note that in the table below the information about prospective candidates is listed;

- In the order the application forms were received;
- With first name and surname only provided; no other personal information is given;
- The text supplied in column 'Profile' is what prospective candidates entered themselves on the application form in the main 'profile' box – this is where candidates were asked (in a maximum of 300 words) to describe;
  - The reason(s) why they would like to become a Councillor;
  - Details of any skills, knowledge, expertise or life experiences that they think would benefit the Town Council and the Northstowe community; and
  - An indication of the Council's Committees & Working Groups they may see themselves contributing to and/or any External Partnerships they would like to join, to represent the Town Council.

Candidate	Name	Profile
1	Majdi Mgaidia	<p>I first learned about Northstowe back in 2016, I loved the idea and worked towards moving to the new town, which I did in 2019.</p> <p>I would love to be part of the town council and help in this important phase.</p> <p>I care a lot about community spirit and the environment.</p> <p>I am a software engineer by trade, I rely on data in my decision making and I think this can be a valuable skill as a councillor.</p>
2	Ioana Sovago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like to become a Councillor in order to represent the Northstowe Community in further plans for the town as well as pushing for current needs and be the voice of the community. Ensure we follow the community needs going forward and their voice is heard.</li> <li>• I will hold the developers to account in their plans to ensure that the town is developed fully and punctually, minimising disruption to the lives of residents.</li> <li>• I have an education at PhD level in science, I have good communication skills, ability to work with documents, generate posters, engage and socialise with people around</li> <li>• I am interested in contributing to plans and what will be built in the area, sport and well-being, security in the area, apply for grants where there are opportunities, green areas and happy to be in meetings and presenting.</li> </ul>
3	Balaji Kinnera	<p>I am Balaji Kinnera and professionally I am an IT solution architect. I moved to Northstowe in 2021 with my wife and my daughter; We were very blessed to have a baby girl. As well as my daughter being born, I was lucky that we moved into a place with an amazing community and wonderful people. I am an active member of the Northstowe News, Northstowe Social.</p> <p>As our community is growing, I would like to really focus on the following:</p> <p>Road safety – I have witnessed cars going at a very high-speed and the zebra crossing at Stirling Road not being clear enough for the car drivers to see also three accidents in one year in Stirling Road</p> <p>Security – Recently house broken by burglar</p> <p>Community get together – Regular community get together where we can share and discuss our problems.</p> <p>Develop a proper town center and providing support to local businesses</p> <p>My goal: My goal is for Northstowe to be a safe, secure and a healthy community.</p>

Candidate	Name	Profile
4	Leena Kumari Ummadi	<p><u>Reason for my Application</u> I have concerns about my local area and want to represent the community to see our local residents views are taken into account. By using my skills and abilities, I want to ensure that the Northstowe community gets the right services.</p> <p><u>Any experience, skills, knowledge or life experiences</u> A decade ago, I worked for Indian High Commission where I've got the opportunity to serve Indian distressed women who were deserted by their spouses. While working in the Indian Gov't office, I was responsible to help the eligible victims to avail the Gov't supported schemes in their distress by analysing their circumstances and by escalating their case to the concern authorities and get them approved if they meet the eligibility criterion. I have gained more experience I dealing with the public concerns with relevant knowledge and raised awareness about the services offered to Indian diaspora by the Gov't.</p> <p>I think this experience that I had in my past helps me to serve my local community if I am considered for this role as Northstowe Town Councillor.</p> <p><u>Future Contributions</u> I wish to work with any local bodies/charities which helps to improve the security of our local community and keep the public access spaces as a safer environment to our young children to play around.</p>
5	Niaz Sardar	<p>I would like to be the voice of community and play an important part of ensuring best quality of life for all residence</p> <p>I completed BSc (Hons) in Mobile and wireless Computing from London Metropolitan University. I am an IT professional working currently in Addenbrookes Hospital. I would like to help and do some contributions towards community in all possible aspects. I had done some charity work back home by managing projects during natural disasters and helping people in need. I managed a local cricket team for 2 years in Cambridge. I will appreciate if I get chance to be part of local council and the development of Northstowe Town.</p>