

Community Energy England AGM 2023: Proposal to extend interim chair arrangements



Background

In March 2022, CEE's Chair, Afsheen Rashid, temporarily stepped away from her role to go on maternity leave and the CEE board voted Helen Seagrave to be appointed as interim Chair.

To facilitate this, a proposal was put forward at the 2022 AGM to disapply the requirements of Article 14.1 of CEE's Articles of Association that requires the board to appoint a representative of the community members to chair the meetings. This disapplication was enabled by section 6.11 of the Association's Bye-Laws.

Afsheen is due to retire by rotation at the 2023 AGM and has taken the decision not to re-stand. A further four directors are retiring by rotation with one re-standing.

In light of these significant changes and the excellent job that Helen Seagrave has done as interim Chair, the CEE board is recommending that this arrangement is extended for up to a further year. This will ensure a degree of stability and allow the board sufficient time to identify and appoint a representative from a community member as Chair.

Helen has been on the board of CEE since 2019 and, prior to being appointed as interim Chair, chaired CEE's governance committee, which steers internal governance procedures. Many of you may know Helen as the Community Energy Manager of Electricity North West, the distribution network operator. She has extensive experience of the sector and is a Chartered Environmentalist with 20 years' experience in developing and delivering strategies and programmes to develop the green economy.

Helen will be continue to be supported by our deputy chair, Peter Capener, who is the Managing Director of Bath & West Community Energy and a pioneer practitioner in the sector.

Proposal to be voted on by members

Members are asked to approve the extension of Helen Seagrave as Interim Chair for a period not exceeding next year's AGM.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact CEE's Chief Executive, Emma Bridge, at emma.bridge@communityenergyengland.org.