

**COUNCIL**

**19 JUNE 2024**

**APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

**1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose an appointment to a substitute position on the North East Combined Authority and to note a revised nomination to the NECA Audit and Standards Committee.

**2. North East Combined Authority**

- 2.1 The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 states that each constituent local authority must appoint two substitutes to the Combined Authority who may act in the absence of the appointed member.
- 2.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2024, Councillor Mordey was appointed to the Combined Authority and Councillor Chequer was appointed as a substitute member with the second substitute position being left vacant. Council is therefore requested to approve that Councillor Johnston be appointed as the second substitute member of the Combined Authority.

**3. North East Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee**

- 3.1 Councillors Dodds and Hartnack were appointed to the North East Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee at the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2024 and Councillors Chequer and Mullen were appointed as substitute members.
- 3.2 Subsequently the Council was made aware that Councillor Chequer would not be able to act as a substitute as her appointment as a substitute to the Combined Authority would preclude her from membership of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 3.3 The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has delegated authority to make changes to appointments where any external organisation informs the Council that a nominated member is ineligible for appointment under the organisation's governance requirements and where the appointment must be from a particular political group. In such circumstances, the Assistant Director of Law and Governance may make an appointment in accordance with notification(s) received from the relevant group leader(s) or their representatives and notify Council members accordingly.

3.4 In accordance with the nomination of the Labour group, the Assistant Director of Law and Governance notified NECA that Councillor A Smith would be the nominated substitute in place of Councillor Chequer.

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 The Council is accordingly invited to consider the following: -

- (i) the appointment of Councillor Johnston as a substitute member of the North East Combined Authority; and
- (ii) to note the appointment of Councillor A Smith as substitute member of the North East Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor Chequer.