

COUNCIL

26TH JANUARY 2011

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES – HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, STANDARDS COMMITTEE, SHERBURN HOUSE CHARITY, THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS AND ACTIVE SUNDERLAND BOARD

Report of the Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider nominations to seats on the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Standards Committee, Sherburn House Charity, the Association of North East Councils and Active Sunderland Board.

2.0 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

2.1 The Council has received notice that Councillor Kathryn Chamberlin has resigned from her seat on the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee due to work commitments. As the Committee is politically balanced the resultant vacancy will need to be filled by a member of the majority party in opposition. The Conservative Group have nominated Councillor Tony Morrissey to replace Councillor Chamberlin. The Council is accordingly requested to consider the nomination of the Conservative Group.

3.0 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee,

3.1 The Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee currently has vacancies for two voting, co-opted members who are parent governors. The Council's Governor Support Team has contacted all eligible parent governors (those serving on school governing bodies maintained by the local authority) and two nominees, Janice Bell and Hayley Harper, have been identified. The Council is accordingly requested to consider the nominations to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 Standards Committee

- 4.1** Members will be aware that the coalition government is making proposals to overhaul the Standards regime.
- 4.2** Under the current arrangements, at least 25% of the members of the Standards Committee must be independent members. In making appointments to the Committee, the Council is required to have regard to guidance from Standards for England. That guidance provides that independent members should serve no more than a total of eight years after which new Members should be recruited. There are two long serving members of the Council's Standards Committee, Mr G Cook and Mr J P Paterson. Ordinarily appointments to the Committee are made at Annual Council however both individuals will have served in excess of 8 years by the next Annual Meeting in May or shortly thereafter. A number of authorities have expressed concern that, given the current uncertainty regarding the future of the standards regime, it may be preferable to retain those who had been trained and understand their role rather than try to recruit, appoint and train new members for what may be a very short term.
- 4.3** Standards for England have advised that, in the circumstances and as long as the original appointment was carried out in accordance with the correct legal requirements at the time, an authority can extend the term of appointment for a further period. However, this can only be done during the term of office of an existing independent member. Once the independent member's term has expired, the full recruitment procedures must be followed again.
- 4.4** In the circumstances, it is therefore recommended that Council agrees to extend the existing terms of office of Mr G Cook and Mr J P Paterson until such time as the Council reviews its arrangements in respect of the standards regime, in the light of the Coalition Government's proposals.

5.0 The Sherburn House Charity

- 5.1** The Council has been notified formally by the Chief Officer of Christ's Hospital in Sherburn, Mr Stephen Hallet, that the Council's representative to the Governors of Sherburn House Charity, Councillor Tom Wright, has resigned as a Governor due to ill-health. The Council is accordingly requested to consider nominating a replacement Governor for the remainder of Councillor Wright's unexpired term up to 28th August 2012.

6.0 The Association of North East Councils (ANEC)

- 6.1** At its extraordinary meeting on 16th November 2010 ANEC agreed changes to its constitution including a revision to the rules covering representation from member Councils. The new rules provide that each constituent authority shall be entitled to nominate, as voting representatives, its Leader or Elected Mayor plus one elected member per 50,000 or part thereof of its population. Under the new rules Sunderland is therefore now entitled to nominate seven members including the Leader of the Council. ANEC's new Constitution requests Councils to consider political proportionality and diversity issues when making their nominations. ANEC has confirmed that, if necessary, it will utilise its powers of co-option to achieve its required political representation.
- 6.2** At its Annual meeting in May the Council appointed six Members, including the Leader, to ANEC, so Sunderland is now entitled to appoint one additional Member. The Council is, therefore, requested to consider nominating one further member as a voting representative to ANEC.
- 6.3** In addition, Council is requested to note that ANEC has appointed the Leader of the Council to serve as a Director on the Board of Directors of ANEC Limited; a company set up to take on the Association's legal obligations and liabilities in accordance with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association which provide that the directors of the Company shall consist of the Leaders/Elected Mayors of the constituent authorities at any time in place.

7.0 Active Sunderland Board

- 7.1** The Active Sunderland Board was established in response to a national review of sport and physical activity by Sport England; which culminated in the setting up of a "Single Delivery System" and a requirement, by Sport England, for each local authority to establish a Community Sport Network. The Active Sunderland Board fulfils this role and its terms of reference were approved in August 2010.
- 7.2** The aim of the Board is to play a strategic role concerned with setting the long term outcomes for sport and physical activity in the city and measuring achievement against them. The Board is to be chaired by the Portfolio holder with responsibility for sport and leisure and will consist of representatives from:
- Local Authority Sport and Leisure Service
 - Children's Services
 - Adult Services
 - Community Safety
 - Local Strategic Partnership
 - Tyne and Wear County Sports Partnership
 - Sunderland AFC Foundation
 - Sunderland Sports Council

- Specialist Sports Colleges
- Gentoo
- Sunderland CVS
- Sunderland College
- Sunderland University
- Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust

7.3 The Council is invited to consider nominating the Portfolio holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, Councillor James Blackburn, to the Active Sunderland Board.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 The Council is accordingly recommended to consider:

- (i) appointing Councillor A Morrissey to the vacancy on the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee,
- (ii) appointing Janice Bell and Hayley Harper as voting, co-opted members who are parent governors on the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee,
- (iii) agreeing to extend the existing terms of office of Mr G Cook and Mr J Paterson, as independent members of the Standards Committee, until such time as the Council reviews its arrangements in respect of the standards regime, in the light of the Coalition Government's proposals,
- (iv) nominating a replacement Governor to the Sherburn House Charity for the remainder of the unexpired term up to 28th August 2012,
- (v) appointing a further Member of the Council to ANEC and noting the appointment of the Leader of the Council as a Director of ANEC Limited, and
- (vi) nominating the Portfolio holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, Councillor James Blackburn, to the Active Sunderland Board.