

**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES – STANDARDS COMMITTEE, CHILDREN’S SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE, CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD, NORTHERN ARTS COMPANY AND THE NORTHERN ARTS LOCAL AUTHORITY FORUM****Report of the City Solicitor****1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Council’s representation on the Standards Committee, the Children’s Services Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board and to note the current position in relation to the Northern Arts Company and the Northern Arts Local Authority Forum.

**2.0 Standards Committee**

2.1 At the Annual Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May the Council appointed Councillor G. W. K. Hepple to one of the two Hetton Town Council Member places on the Standards Committee. The Council has now been notified by the Town Clerk that the Town Council has now nominated Councillor A. R. Wilkinson to the remaining place on the Committee.

2.2 The Council is accordingly invited to consider the nomination of the Town Council.

2.3 It should be noted that although the new regulations require the appointment of at least two representatives from the Town Council the Standards Board’s recently issued guidance suggests appointing three such members. The need for this will be assessed in the light of experience and will be the subject of a further report if necessary.

**3.0 Children’s Services Committee**

3.1 At the Annual Council the Majority Group nominated, amongst others, Councillor P. Dixon to one of the seats on the Children’s Services Review Committee. As the nomination was a minor departure from the strict political balance rules the nomination needed to be approved as an “alternative arrangement” with no votes cast against it. This did not occur as it formed part of a larger motion.

3.2 The Majority Group has again nominated Councillor Dixon to the seat and the Council is requested to consider approving the nomination as an “alternative arrangement” to the political balance rules. Members are reminded that under the rules the nomination can only be carried if no member opposes it.

#### **4.0 Corporate Parenting Board**

4.1 At the Annual Council meeting the Council appointed, amongst others, Councillor D. Forbes to the Corporate Parenting Board.

4.2 The Leader of the Council has indicated that his Group now wish to nominate Councillor A. Hall to serve on the Board in place of Councillor D. Forbes.

#### **5.0 Northern Arts Company and the Northern Arts Local Authority Forum**

5.1 At the Annual Council meeting the Council appointed Councillor Errington, M. Dixon, Shattock and Speding to the board of the Northern Arts Company. The Council has now been notified by the Arts Council for England that the Northern Arts Company has now been wound up. The Northern Arts Local Authority Forum will continue to meet but will now go as the Arts Council England Local Authority Forum. Councillors Errington and Speding were appointed by the Council to this body.

5.2 The Council is invited to note the position.

#### **6.0 Recommendations:**

6.1 The Council is therefore recommended to consider:-

- (i) noting the content of the report and the position in relation to the Northern Arts Committee and the Northern Arts Local Authority Forum,
- (ii) approving the nomination of Councillor P. Dixon to serve on the Children’s Services Committee as an “alternative arrangement” to the political balance rules,
- (iii) appointing Councillor A. R. Wilkinson of Hetton Town Council to the remaining place on the Standards Committee, and
- (iv) appointing Councillor A. Hall to serve on the Corporate Parenting Board in place of Councillor D. Forbes.