

COUNCIL

2 July 2014

**APPOINTMENTS – SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (SSAB),
LOCALISM ACT 2011: INDEPENDENT PERSON, STRATEGIC TRANSPORT**

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider appointments to the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB), note the retirement of one of the Council's Independent Persons to the Standards Committee and note the Leader's decision to include strategic transport within his portfolio.

2.0 Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)

2.1 There is a requirement to formalise the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Adult Services to the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB).

2.2 The SSAB, now a statutory function as set out in the Care Act, is responsible for providing the leadership for safeguarding across the City and frames the activities of a range of organisations in order to ensure that there are effective interfaces between relevant bodies to safeguard everyone who may be considered to be at risk or in circumstances that may make them vulnerable. Whilst the Council, NHS Partners, the Police Authority and others hold ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within their individual organisations, it is the SSAB that brings the critical independence that maximises the effectiveness of their activity.

2.3 The SSAB meets bi-monthly throughout the year and has representatives from a range of relevant partners.

3.0 Localism Act 2011: Independent Person

3.1 Council is advised that one of the Council's Independent Persons, Mr. Anthony Atkinson, has decided that he does not wish to continue in post at the expiry of his current term of office, at the end of July this year.

3.2 One of the reasons the Council appointed two Independent Persons was to deal with any conflict of interest situations however, to date, this has not proved to be an issue.

3.3 In the circumstances, it is proposed that at the present time, the Council continues to operate its ethical standards arrangements with only one

Independent Person, namely Ms. Sheba Joseph, whose term of office does not expire until July 2017.

- 3.4 However it is recommended that authority is delegated to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee, to make arrangements to advertise for, shortlist and interview for a second Independent Person, to be recommended to full Council for appointment, should it be considered beneficial to do so in the future.

4.0 Portfolio Responsibilities

- 4.1 Following Annual Council the Leader has determined that his portfolio will include strategic transport.

5.0 Recommendations:-

- 5.1 The Council is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) formalise the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Adult Services to the SSAB;
- (ii) note the retirement of Mr. Anthony Atkinson from the post of Independent Person at the expiry of his current term of office, at the end of July this year and delegate to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee, to make arrangements to advertise for, shortlist and interview for a second Independent Person, to be recommended to full Council for appointment, should it be considered beneficial to do so in the future; and
- (iii) note the Leader's decision to include strategic transport within his portfolio.