

COUNCIL

27 NOVEMBER 2013

APPOINTMENTS – INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, SUNDERLAND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT COMPANY, ADULT PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee and appointments to the Sunderland Business Improvement District Company and Adult Partnership Board and to note an appointment to the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.0 Independent Member of Audit and Governance Committee

- 2.1 The Council recognises the need to ensure good governance in delivering public services and has an audit committee to:
- Provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the authorised control environment
 - Provide independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects exposure to risk and weakens the control environment
 - Oversee the financial reporting process
- 2.2 The Council's Audit and Governance Committee includes two independent members (one of whom acts as Independent Chair) to oversee and assure these arrangements. The other independent member has recently retired from the Committee.
- 2.3 A recruitment process to select and recommend an appropriately experienced new independent member to the committee has been undertaken. The role was advertised in the Echo and Journal with a closing date for applications of 25 October.
- 2.4 Three candidates have been shortlisted. The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Deputy Leader interviewed the short-listed candidates on 15th November, and recommend that Mr Martin Knowles be appointed for a period of three years with an option for the Council to renew annually thereafter.

- 2.5 Mr Knowles, is currently retired, but has recently been Interim Chief Executive of South Tyneside Homes. Previously Mr Knowles has worked at CEO level for 14 years with Four Housing Group, and has also held Director of Finance roles with a number of NHS Trusts. In addition, Mr Knowles currently serves on the Audit Committees of New College Durham (where he is Audit Chair) and Two Castles Housing Association. As such, Mr Knowles has a vast range of experience relevant to the work of the Audit and Governance Committee.

3.0 Sunderland Business Improvement District Company (BID)

- 3.1 The Cabinet at its meeting held on 9 October 2013 considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive on the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID). It is anticipated that from January 2014 the new BID Model / Company will be agreed and a CEO will be in place, with the rest of the BID Team coming on board shortly thereafter.
- 3.2 The BID Board will be recruited via an elected process and will be made up of representatives from city centre stakeholders covering all geographical areas and all business sectors. The City Council will hold two seats on a board of approximately 15.
- 3.3 The BID Company will formally launch and begin delivering activities on 1st April 2014.
- 3.4 The Council is accordingly asked to appoint two Directors to the Board of the BID company.

4.0 Adult Partnership Board

- 4.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2013 the Council appointed Councillor Oliver to the Adult Partnership Board. Councillor Oliver has indicated that he is unable to attend the meetings, resulting in a vacancy on the Board. At present there is no nomination from the majority group in opposition for a replacement.
- 4.2 The Council is therefore requested to note the vacancy on the Board.

5.0 Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board

- 5.1 The Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board was established under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act and brings together key NHS, public health and social care leaders in the local authority area to work in partnership.
- 5.2 Local Healthwatch organisations were established to be a strong and independent consumer champion and have a statutory entitlement to a seat on their local Health and Wellbeing Board. Healthwatch Sunderland have recently appointed Kevin Morris as the Chair of their Executive Board and he will formally take up the position of Healthwatch representative on the

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board from the next Board meeting in January 2014.

- 5.3 The Council is therefore requested to note the change in representation on the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Council is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) consider the appointment of the recommended candidate to the Audit and Governance Committee for a period of three years with the option for the Council to renew annually thereafter;
- (ii) appoint two Directors to the Board of the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) Company;
- (iii) note the vacancy on the Adult Partnership Board; and
- (iv) note the change in representation on the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board.

