

COUNCIL**20 MARCH 2024****APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES****REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE****1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of outstanding changes and appointments required to the allocation of Committee seats between political groups as a result of the changes to political balance previously reported to Council, to propose arrangements for appointments to be made to Washington Town Board and to propose an appointment to the Board of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd.

2. Changes to Appointments on Committees

- 2.1 So far as reasonably practicable, the proportion of the total number of committee seats allocated to each group should reflect each group's proportion of the membership of the authority. The outstanding changes / appointments to Committees which are required are set out in the table below:

Committee	Vacancy / Member to be Replaced	Member(s) to be Appointed
Human Resources Committee	Vacancy	Cllr Tye
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	Vacancy	Ungrouped Nomination to be notified.
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy	Cllr Butler
Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy	Cllr G Smith
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy Vacancy	Cllr Guy Cllr Mordey
Planning and Highways Committee	Vacancy	Cllr Curtis
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Vacancy	Ungrouped Nomination to be notified.
Appeals Committee	Vacancy	Cllr S Foster

3. Washington Town Board

- 3.1 In Autumn 2023, the government launched its long-term plan for Britain's towns, as a part of the levelling up programme. Washington was pre-selected as one of the 55 towns nationally to be included as part of the programme, which is intended to support local regeneration over the next decade.
- 3.2 The guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in December 2023 specifies that an independent chair must be appointed to the proposed Town Board, specifically a local community leader or businessperson who is a respected figure in the community and well placed to lead the Town Board. As part of its role in establishing the Town Board, the Council is expected to offer the independent chair position to a suitable candidate, in consultation with the local MP.
- 3.3 Elected representatives cannot chair the Town Board, but the local MP is required to sit on the Town Board, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner (or their representative). The Council is entitled to appoint two Councillors to the Town Board, and the wider membership is required to be made up from appropriate community and partner organisations, with a strong emphasis on community engagement.
- 3.4 The Town Board will not have legal personality, and accordingly it is expected that the Council will be the accountable body for the purpose of receiving grant funding and administering expenditure on behalf of the Town Board. The Town Board will however be community led, independent of the Council, and responsible for developing and approving its own long-term plan for priority investments in Washington.
- 3.5 The timescales presented by DLUHC for establishing the Town Board are challenging, and the detailed governance arrangements for formally convening and administering the Town Board are still to be developed. In order to ensure progress in line with DLUHC's timescales, it is likely that it will be necessary to establish an initial shadow Town Board, and any Councillor representatives and other representatives (including the chair) will first be invited to join this shadow board. It is intended that Cabinet will subsequently be invited to formally ratify the convening of the Town Board later in 2024, and also approve the detailed governance arrangements and the prospective role of the Council as accountable body.
- 3.6 Council is therefore recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to nominate two Councillor appointments to the proposed Washington Town Board, and to invite a local community leader to act as chair to the Town Board.

4. Together for Children Sunderland Ltd (TfC)

- 4.1 Further to the previous decision of Cabinet to extend the current service delivery contract with TfC up to 31st March 2027, and following a review of

the corporate governance arrangements for the company, a refresh and streamlining of the TfC board structure is planned.

4.2 The term of office of a number of the existing TfC non-executive directors is due to expire at the end of March 2024. The proposals have been shaped by the future requirements of the company during the next stage of its journey up to March 2027 and the interests of proportionality.

4.3 With effect from 1st April 2024, it is proposed that the TfC board of directors be re-constituted as follows:

- Ms T. Banks (Independent Chair)
- Chief Executive of TfC
- Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council
- Independent Non-Executive Director

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Council is accordingly invited to consider approving the following: -

- (i) the appointment of Councillor Tye to the Human Resources Committee;
- (ii) the appointment of an Ungrouped Member to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee;
- (iii) the appointment of Councillor Butler to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;
- (iv) the appointment of Councillor G Smith to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee;
- (v) the appointment of Councillors Guy and Mordey to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
- (vi) the appointment of Councillor Curtis to the Planning and Highways Committee;
- (vii) the appointment of an Ungrouped Member to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee;
- (viii) the appointment of Councillor Foster to the Appeals Committee;
- (ix) that the Chief Executive be delegated to nominate two Councillor appointments to the Washington Town Board and to invite a local community leader to act as chair of the Town Board; and
- (x) the appointment of the Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council to the Board of Directors of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd.

