

COUNCIL

17 NOVEMBER 2021

## APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

#### 1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council that no changes are required to the allocation of Committee seats between political groups as a result of the Hetton by-election, however approval is sought to a number of proposed changes to various committees and outside bodies, unrelated to the outcome of the by-election.
- 1.2 The full list of appointments to committees and outside bodies will be published on the Council's website in the Year Book at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm55/PublicDocuments.aspx> following the meeting.

#### 2.0 Changes to Appointments on Committees

- 2.1 A review of the political balance of the Council to ensure places on Committees are allocated in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements has been undertaken, following the recently held by-election in the Hetton ward, at which Councillor Iain Scott was elected. Councillor Scott has joined the Labour group on the Council and members are advised that no change to the allocation of seats between the political groups is required as a result.
- 2.2 A change to the membership of the Planning and Highways Committee (East) is outstanding following the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The need for the change had arisen following the dissolution of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) Group on the Council and details are set out as follows:-
- **Planning and Highways Committee (East)** – the seat held by the former UKIP Group is allocated to the Liberal Democrats Group.
- 2.3 A request has also been received to replace Councillor Rowntree with Councillor Scott on the following Committee:-
- Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel

### **3.0 Additions and Changes to Outside Bodies**

#### **Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group**

- 3.1 The Council was recently invited to nominate an elected member representative and an officer representative to the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group which is open to all members of the LGA. The officer representative was appointed at the September Council meeting. It is now requested that a Member representative be appointed.
- 3.2 The LGA Coastal SIG exists to champion and represent the collective interests of the coastal communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. It works in partnership with other organisations with complementary aims and brings pressure on the Government to secure local government's full involvement at all levels of policy formulation concerning the coast.
- 3.3 The LGA Coastal SIG meets 4 times per year. All nominated Member and officer representatives are invited to attend. These meetings are attended by representatives from relevant government departments (e.g. Defra, MHCLG) and provide a direct line to government. The SIG also attracts a varied programme of external speakers, including an Executive Director of the Environment Agency and the Chief Officer of the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.
- 3.4 Council is therefore requested to appoint an elected member representative.

#### **Hetton Town Trust**

- 3.5 A request has been received to replace Councillor Rowntree with Councillor Scott on Hetton Town Trust.

### **4.0 Positions as Trustees on the Samuel Dobson and Victoria House Trusts**

- 4.1 A vacancy for a Councillor representative exists on both the Samuel Dobson Trust and the Victoria House Trust previously held by former Councillor Turner.
- 4.2 A request has also been received to replace Councillor Rowntree with Councillor Scott on the Samuel Dobson Trust.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

The Council is accordingly invited to:-

- (i) appoint a Liberal Democrat Group Member to the seat on the Planning and Highways Committee (East) held by the former UKIP Group;
- (ii) approve the appointment of Councillor Scott to the Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel in place of Councillor Rowntree;
- (iii) appoint an elected member representative to the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group;
- (iv) approve the appointment of Councillor Scott to Hetton Town Trust in place of Councillor Rowntree;
- (v) appoint an elected member representative to the Samuel Dobson Trust and approve the appointment of Councillor Scott to the Trust in place of Councillor Rowntree; and
- (vi) appoint an elected member representative to the Victoria House Trust.

