

**COUNCIL**

**21 NOVEMBER 2018**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **Report of the Head of Law and Governance**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider appointments and nominations to a number of Committees, Boards and outside bodies.

#### **2.0 Standards Committee**

- 2.1 The Council has been notified that Hetton Town Council has nominated Councillors Richard Elvin and Paul Holt to sit as the Town Council's representatives on the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2018/2019.
- 2.2 In addition the Council is requested to replace Councillor Stephen O'Brien, the Liberal Democrat and Others Group Member on the Standards Committee, with Councillor Hodson.

#### **3.0 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee**

- 3.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council, Councillor Foster was appointed to serve on the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 3.2 Councillor Foster has subsequently advised that he is no longer able to serve on the body and Council is asked to replace Councillor Foster with the appointment of Councillor Watson.

#### **4.0 Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board**

- 4.1 At a meeting of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board on Friday 21 September 2018, the Board received a report concerning its membership and governance. This report summarised the proposals of a task and finish group that had been asked to consider the Board's purpose, membership, reporting/sub-groups, and decision making. Included in the proposals was a recommendation to increase the membership of the Board.

- 4.2 The Board's view is that it should widen its membership to reflect the approach taken by the Health and Wellbeing Boards of regional neighbours as well as its current priorities. For these reasons the Board wishes that both South Tyneside & Sunderland Healthcare Group and Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust be invited to nominate representatives to be members on the Board. At the time of writing the details of the individuals that will represent these organisations are to be confirmed.

#### **4.0 Sunderland Orphanage and Educational Foundation**

- 4.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council, Councillors Beck, Hunt, M. Dixon and D. Snowdon were appointed to serve on the Sunderland Orphanage and Educational Foundation.
- 4.2 Councillor Hunt has subsequently advised that she is no longer able to serve on the body and Council is asked to consider the appointment of Councillor Ball in her stead.

#### **5.0 North East Regional Employers' Organisation**

- 5.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council, Councillors Kelly, G. Miller, Mordey and A. Wilson\* (\* Also a Member of the Executive Committee) were appointed to serve on the North East Regional Employers' Organisation.
- 5.2 Councillor A. Wilson has subsequently advised that she is no longer able to serve on the body and also on the Executive Committee and Council is asked to consider the appointment of Councillor Stewart to both positions.

#### **6.0 Appointments to Charitable Bodies / Trusts**

##### **6.1 Parker Trust**

- 6.1.1 The Parker Trust CIO operates from premises in Kayll Road and provides advice and assistance and programmes of activity for young people. The constitution of the Trust provides for the appointment of 12 Trustees by the Council. There are currently six serving trustees, all of whom are elected members. The CIO has been established with a view to all of the assets of the unincorporated Parker Memorial Home charity being transferred to the new incorporated body. Until the Parker Memorial Home is formally wound up, the same trustees will be appointed to both bodies.
- 6.1.2 In order to involve a wide range of people in the charity's operations, it is recommended that individuals from outside the Council are appointed to the vacant positions. This would also have the benefits of:

- enhancing the skills available to the organisation by enabling the targeted recruitment of independent persons with particular skill sets;
- enabling members of the community to become more involved in the strategic management of the organisation; and
- helping to demonstrate the independence of the Trust from the Council, which would be beneficial when applying for external funding opportunities.

6.1.3 It is proposed that the Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships, in consultation with the Chair of the Parker Trust, is authorised to undertake a recruitment process in order to identify individuals to be recommended to Council for appointment as trustees of the charity.

6.1.4 Each trustee will be appointed for a term of 4 years.

## **6.2 Samuel Dobson Trust and Victoria House Charity**

6.2.1 The objects of the Samuel Dobson Trust relate to the promotion of charitable purposes for the benefit of disabled people and the advancement of education, furtherance of health and relief of poverty, distress and sickness. While the original bequest to the Trust was of over £32,000, there is only just over £800 available for distribution / re-investment.

6.2.2 Another charity, the Victoria House Charity, was subject to a charity scheme in 1973 for the relief of sickness. While the capital investment of the charity amounts to just over £7,300, there is over £38,000 available for distribution / reinvestment. This charity has not however met for over thirty years and there are currently no trustees appointed to it.

6.2.3 In order to enable the income from the Victoria House Charity to be distributed in an efficient, economical way, it is proposed that the scope for merging or amalgamating its funds with those of the Samuel Dobson Trust is explored. As a first step, it will be necessary for the Victoria House Charity to be “reconstituted” in order to enable decisions to be made about its assets and for this purpose it is recommended that three persons be appointed as trustees.

## **6.3 Hylton Castle Trust**

6.3.1 The Hylton Castle Trust has been established to take over the operation and management of Hylton Castle in April/May 2019. The Charity Commission granted the Hylton Castle Trust charitable status on 5 November 2018.

6.3.2 The Trust will build upon the valuable work undertaken by the Friends of Hylton Dene and Castle (Castle in the Community), and its objects will be to:-

- advance education in the history and cultural heritage and natural environment of Hylton Castle, Sunderland in particular by establishing and maintaining a heritage centre,
- conserve, protect and promote the historic buildings and garden structures and records relating to Hylton Castle,
- to conserve, protect and promote the surrounding natural environment including Hylton Dene and Hylton Dene local nature reserve including by promoting biodiversity and conserving wildlife, and
- to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of inhabitants who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the objects of improving their conditions of life.

6.3.2 The Trust will initially be engaged in preparations for the re-opening of Hylton Castle, and is looking to recruit a number of independent trustees over the coming months.

6.3.3 The Trust needs to be able to demonstrate to the Charity Commission that it remains operationally independent from the Council. The Council has a right to nominate one trustee to the board of the Hylton Castle Trust, but this is a qualified right, as the Trust also needs to ensure that the nominated Council representatives amount to less than 20% of the total number of trustees appointed at any one time.

6.3.4 Council is asked to consider the appointment of Councillor D. Wilson to the position of trustee of the Hylton Castle Trust.

## **7.0 North East Combined Authority (NECA) and North of Tyne Combined Authority North East Joint Transport Committees**

7.1 The Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order became law in November 2018.

7.2 In preparation for the Inaugural Meeting of NECA in November 2018 and the establishment of Joint Transport Arrangements, the Council is invited to submit nominations for membership of the committees of NECA and the Joint Transport Committees for the remainder of the municipal year 2018/2019 as set out below.

\*It should be noted that some committees are required to reflect the political balance of the region and are detailed accordingly.

**NECA Leadership Board** – to note and endorse the continued appointment of the Leader of Council with the Deputy Leader of the Council as substitute.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee\*** – One Majority Group Member and one Majority Group in Opposition Member (and two substitutes of the same political affiliation as the two Members). The Members must not be members of the NECA Leadership Board, North East Joint Transport Committee or the Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee.

**Audit and Standards Committee\*** – One Majority Group Member and substitute Member of the same political affiliation. The Member must be a Member of the Council's Standards or Audit & Governance Committee.

**Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Committee** – One Member and a substitute.

**North East Joint Transport Committee** – NECA, at its meeting to be held on 13 November 2018 will make the appointment of one Member and one Substitute.

**North East Joint Transport (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee** – One Member and a substitute.

**North East Joint Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee\*** - Two Majority Group Members and two substitutes of the same political affiliation. The Members must not be members of the Combined Authority's Leadership Board, Transport Joint Committee or Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee.

**North East Joint Transport Audit Committee\*** - One Majority Group Member and substitute Member of the same political affiliation. The Member should be a Member of the Combined Authority's Audit Committee.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 The Council is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) Appoint Councillors Richard Elvin and Paul Holt as the representatives of Hetton Town Council on the Standards Committee;
- (ii) Appoint Councillor Hodson in place of Councillor O'Brien on the Standards Committee;
- (iii) Appoint Councillor Watson in place of Councillor Foster on the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee;
- (iv) Endorse the proposal to expand the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the report and consider such nominations as are received for appointment to the Board from the organisations concerned;

- (v) Appoint Councillor Ball in place of Councillor Hunt on the Sunderland Orphanage and Educational Foundation;
- (vi) Appoint Councillor Stewart in place of Councillor A. Wilson on the North East Regional Employers' Organisation and as the member on the Executive Committee;
- (vii) Confirm that until further review, any trustees appointed to the Parker Trust CIO shall also serve as trustees of Parker Memorial Home and authorise the Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships, in consultation with the Chair of the Parker Trust, to conduct a recruitment process in order to identify suitable candidates for recommendation to Council for appointment to the vacant positions of trustee;
- (viii) Appoint the Cabinet Secretary, a Majority Group member and a Majority Group in Opposition member to act as trustees of the Victoria House Charity;
- (ix) Appoint Councillor D. Wilson to act as a trustee on the Hylton Castle Trust;
- (x) To note and endorse the continued appointment of the Leader of the Council with the Deputy Leader of the Council as substitute on the NECA Leadership Board and to approve the following nominations:-

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee\*** – Councillor D.E. Snowdon and one Majority Group in Opposition Member (Councillor Hunt and one Majority Group in Opposition Member as substitutes).

**Audit and Standards Committee\*** – Councillor Stewart with Councillor O'Neil as substitute.

**Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Committee** – to note and endorse the continued appointment of the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council as substitute.

**North East Joint Transport Committee** – to note the appointment of one Member and one Substitute from the NECA meeting on 13 November 2018.

**North East Joint Transport (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee** – Councillor A. Wilson with Councillor Waller as substitute.

**North East Joint Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee\*** - Councillors Kelly and Stewart with Councillors Porthouse and D.E. Snowdon as substitutes.

**North East Joint Transport Audit Committee\*** - Councillor Stewart with Councillor O'Neil as substitute.