

COUNCIL

26th MARCH 2014

**APPOINTMENTS - SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, INDEPENDENT PERSONS,
NORTHEAST DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTRE, WEAR WATER SPORTS
CLUBS ASSOCIATION**

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider appointments to the vacant position of Church of England Diocese representative on the Scrutiny Committee, seek approval for the extension of the appointment of the Council's Independent Persons, consider an appointment as a Trustee to the Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre and an appointment to Wear Water Sports Clubs Association.

2.0 Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16th May 2012, Members considered the appointment of persons to the statutory co-opted positions on the Scrutiny Committee. They approved the nomination of Ms. A. Blakey as the Roman Catholic Diocese representative and decided to leave the positions in relation to the Church of England diocese representative and the two Parent Governor representatives vacant for the time being.
- 2.2 Ms. R. Elliott and Ms. H. Harper were subsequently nominated as the two Parent Governor representatives on the Committee and these nominations were approved by Council at its meeting held on 30th July 2012.
- 2.3 The Church of England Diocese of Durham and Newcastle has now nominated Mr. Steve Williamson, Headteacher at Northern Saints Primary School, Sunderland to serve as its representative on the Committee.

3.0 Independent Persons

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Standards Committee makes a decision in respect of an allegation against a Member which has been investigated. The Independent Person's views may also be sought by a Member who is the subject of a complaint.
- 3.2 The Council has two posts of Independent Persons which were advertised publicly and interviews carried out by a Panel drawn up from the Standards Committee. At its meeting on 30 July 2012, the Council appointed Mr. Anthony Atkinson and Mrs Sheeba Joseph to the posts for a period of two years, with provision for the Council to extend for a further period of three

years, without re-advertising. The allowances payable for the post (which do not form part of the Members' Allowances Scheme) were set at £1,000 per annum plus reasonable travel and subsistence expenses and it is proposed that this continues.

- 3.3 Mr. Atkinson and Mrs Joseph have provided valuable input and support to the Standards Committee and it is therefore recommended that their period of office be extended.

4.0 Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre

- 4.1 Correspondence has been received from the Managing Director of the Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre making a request for Councillor Michael Mordey to join the Resource Centre's Committee as a Trustee. Councillor Mordey has visited the Centre on an informal basis and following discussions with the Centre they wish to formalise the situation.
- 4.2 The Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre is a Charitable 'Day Care' centre whose premises are in Cork Street, Hendon, Sunderland. The charity has been in existence for 50 years, formerly Sunderland and District Scope and now the Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre (NDRC). The Centre supports people who have in the main cerebral palsy and has close connections with Social Services, working with them on the assessed needs of its members.
- 4.3 The Centre is governed by a small Committee made up from a Durham Councillor, an ex Sunderland Councillor and other professionals. It would like to strengthen its Committee for the future, but also at the same time believes this would improve the Centre's links with the Council to achieve mutual goals.

5.0 Wear Water Sports Clubs Association

- 5.1 A request has been received from Wear Water Sports Clubs Association for Councillor Christine Shattock to represent the Council at meetings of the Association. Councillor Shattock has attended the February meeting of the Association this year as an observer. Meetings are held quarterly in May, August, November and February.
- 5.2 The objects of the Association are to:-
- work together to support and promote the member organisations;
 - work collectively in partnership to develop and promote water based sports and activities;
 - work in partnership with the Port of Sunderland to promote and develop leisure water sports;
 - work in partnership with the City of Sunderland Council to promote and develop leisure water sports facilities and events;
 - promote the safe use of the river and sea for all water sports;
 - act as a consultation body on relevant legislation and regulations; and
 - work as a collective voice to market and promote the seafront and waterways.

5.3 The following clubs/organisations are Members of the Association:-

Cox Green Boat Club
Deptford Boat Club
Hudson Dock Boating and Yachting Association
Sunderland RNLI
Sunderland VLB
Sunderland Yacht Club
Sunderland Sea Scouts
Wear Boating Association
Marine activities Centre
Sunderland Coastguard

6.0 Recommendations:

6.1 The Council is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) consider appointing Mr. Steve Williamson, Headteacher of Northern Saints Primary School, Sunderland to the vacant position of Church of England Diocese representative on the Scrutiny Committee;
- (ii) extend the period of appointment of Mr. Anthony Atkinson and Mrs Sheeba Joseph to the posts of Independent Persons as set out in the report for an additional period of three years so as to expire on 1st July 2017;
- (iii) consider the appointment of Councillor Michael Mordey as a Trustee on the Committee for the Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre; and
- (iv) consider the appointment of Councillor Christine Shattock as the Council's representative on the Wear Water Sports Clubs Association.

