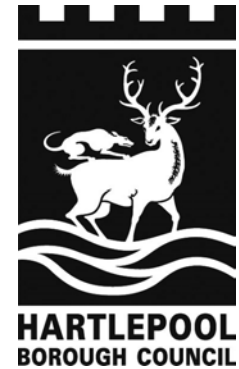


GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 11 December 2009

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors C. Akers-Belcher, S. Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, R. Cook, Flintoff, Griffin, Laffey, G Lilley and Shaw

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2009
4. **ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
5. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

5 November 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Laffey (In the Chair)

Councillors: Atkinson, C Akers-Belcher, Flintoff and G Lilley

Officers: Christine Armstrong, Centre Services Manager
Alison Swann, HR Advisor
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Akers-Belcher.

10. Declarations of interest by members

None.

11. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2009

Confirmed subject to the deletion of reference to declarations of interest by all Members of the Committee on the basis that Members who were present at the meeting were of the view that declarations of interest had been discussed, however, no declarations had been declared by Members.

12. Criminal Records Bureau Process and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) *Chief Personnel Officer*

Following a request at a previous meeting, the Central Services Manager and HR Advisor were in attendance at the meeting to respond to Members' queries regarding internal processes for CRB applications and registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Background information on the procedure followed by the

Council regarding the process for a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure together with information relating to role of the new regulatory body, the Independent Safeguard Authority was included in the report.

In relation to Members queries at the last meeting as to whether Members could contribute to any consultation with Central Government regarding the ISA process, the HR Advisor reported that having taken advice from the Legal Services Manager there was currently no ongoing consultation. However, details of initial consultation from January 2009 and responses were outlined in Appendix A to the report. Should further consultation arise it would be possible to contribute.

The view of the ISA official was that Councillors would fall within the "Controlled activity" category ie individuals within specified organisations (local authorities) who have frequent access to sensitive records about children and vulnerable adults.

In terms of whether or not it could be a matter for Standards Committee should a Councillor refuse to undertake a CRB check, this would depend on whether the Councillor would have access to sensitive records as described above, for example sitting on Fostering/Adoption Panels and failure to have a CRB check could feasibly result in a charge of bringing the Council into disrepute – a matter for Standards Committee.

Accordingly, until clarification was given by the ISA regarding registration, Members were required to undergo the current Council agreed policy of a CRB disclosure on election and then every four years thereafter.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the information provided in the report, the definition of regulated and controlled activity, the additional safeguards arising from ISA registration, the possibility of loopholes in the new system and the financial benefits of unnecessary repetition.

In response to a Member's concerns regarding the financial implications of continuing to undertake CRB checks in addition to ISA registration, the HR Advisor reported that ISA registration was entirely separate from CRB checks. The importance of safeguarding arrangements were highlighted and extensive checks were being undertaken during school inspections to ensure that satisfactory safeguarding arrangements were in place. There were risks of schools failing Ofsted inspections if satisfactory arrangements were not in place.

Members outlined their experiences of undergoing CRB checks and welcomed the introduction of ISA registration which included

enhanced CRB checks. Members were reminded that the ISA registration was not a legal requirement until November 2010 for new employees and for current employees a 5 year rolling implementation programme commencing from 2011. Following further discussion, Members were of the view that the current arrangements should continue until a decision was received regarding ISA registration.

Decision

The ISA position in relation to Councillors be noted together with the improvements that had been made to the Hartlepool Borough Council system of processing CRB applications through the Contact Centre.

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am

CHAIR

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

11th December 2009



Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the General Purposes Committee in respect of vacancies that currently exist for Local Authority representative governors, and to request members to make recommendations to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies.

2. BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire or has expired and who are, interested in serving or wish to continue to serve as a LA representative governor on school governing bodies.

The following criteria were agreed by the Borough Council for the recruitment of LA representative governors in 2000. LA governors should be able to show:

- demonstrable interest in and commitment to education;
- a desire to support the school concerned;
- a commitment to attend regular meetings of the governing body (and committees as appropriate) and school functions generally;
- good communication/interpersonal skills;
- ability to work as part of a team;
- a clearly expressed willingness to participate in the governor training programme.

A schedule (**Appendix 1**) is attached setting out details of vacancies which currently exist for LA representative governors, together with applications received in respect of the vacancies (**Appendix 2**). **This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (para 1)**

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the recommendations for the appointments set out in the confidential section of the minutes, of LA representative governors be referred to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder for approval.

Contact Officer:

Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer, telephone 523766

Child and Adult Services



VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

December 2009

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
Telephone: 01429 523766**

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Barnard Grove Primary School Councillor R Cook Mr J M Kay	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	
Brougham Primary School Mr P L Bowes Mrs S Marshall	One Vacancy	Councillor R Atkinson Mr J Horner	
Clavering Primary School Councillor R Cook Councillor T Fleming	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	
Eldon Grove Primary School Mrs P Vaughan Mr J Barr	One vacancy	No interest expressed	
Grange Primary School Councillor R Flintoff	Two vacancies	No interest expressed	
Jesmond Road Primary School Miss S Saint Mr K Gardner Mr M Ward Mrs B Watson	Vacancy Vice Mr M Ward Term of office expires 5 th February 2010	Mr M Ward	

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Owton Manor Primary School Mrs J Thompson Mr J Vale Mrs S Hayes	One Vacancy	Mrs M Raine	
Rossmere Primary School Mrs M Smith	Two Vacancy	No interest expressed	
St Helen's Primary school Miss C Lamb Mr J Ibbotson Councillor R Atkinson	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	
Throston Primary School Mr K Shears	Two Vacancies	Mrs S Allison	
Ward Jackson Primary School Councillor Jonathan Brash Mrs A Darby	One vacancy	Mrs J Stoker	
West Park Primary School Mrs S Kirby Mrs M Boddy	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	
West View Primary School Councillor S Griffin Councillor C Simmons	Vacancy Vice Mr D Wise Term of office expired 16 th November 2009	Mr D Wise	