

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday, 16 April 2010

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room A, 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 19 March 2010
- 4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Child & Adult Services*
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

19 March 2010

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

Present:

Councillors: Pauline Laffey (in the Chair)
Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Reuben Atkinson, Rob Cook, Bob Flintoff, Sheila Griffin, Geoff Lilley and Jane Shaw

Officers: Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Christine Armstrong, Central Services Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

22. Apologies for Absence

None.

23. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

24. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2010

Confirmed.

25. Matters Arising from the Minutes – Minute 21 – Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies

A Member requested clarification as to whether Mr Vale had been appointed as a community governor as suggested at the last meeting.

It was agreed that clarification would be provided by the Governor Support Officer under separate cover.

26. Review of Polling Places *(Chief Solicitor)*

The Chief Solicitor advised that under Section 18 of the Electoral

Administration Act 2006 local authorities were required to review their polling districts and polling places on a 4 yearly cycle. The last review was agreed by Council in December 2007 meaning the next scheduled review must be completed by December 2011. In addition, each Council was required to keep their polling districts and places under review during the intervening period. An interim review was undertaken in February 2009 with a number of changes to Polling Places being approved in March 2009.

Details of the existing polling districts and places were appended to the report. Currently, there were 59 polling districts and as there were no plans to review polling districts, it would not be necessary to revise and republish the Electoral Register. However, a number of potential new locations for polling places had been identified offering improved access and car parking facilities. Details of the polling districts affected together with existing and proposed polling places were outlined in Appendix B to the report.

In the Rift House Ward, the Children's Centre at Rift House Primary School was identified as the polling place for Polling District LA. The Masefield Centre, which was previously used as a polling place when it was the Masefield Road Nursery was now available once again and offered improved access and car parking facilities. Previously officers had been unable to secure Hartfields as a polling place for Polling Districts DB and ID. However, after liaison with management and residents the facility was now available for use which would reduce the requirement of utilising one portable unit.

During the discussion which followed a Member commented that concerns had been raised by residents regarding the proposal to utilise Hartfields as a polling place and a query was raised on the reasons for the change in view of the preference of residents in relation to the location. The Central Services Manager advised that a number of local authorities had been criticised for utilising portable units that did not meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements resulting in access difficulties for electors. A lengthy discussion ensued on the advantages and disadvantages of portable units and the impact the location of polling places may have on voter turnout. The need to consider the elderly when determining suitable premises and ensure signage clearly reflected the entrance and exits to polling stations to assist voters was emphasised.

In response to some further concern in relation to the suitability of premises in the Park Ward, the impact on voter turnout and the suggestion that consideration be given to utilising West Park School or a portable unit, the Chief Solicitor advised that this option could be further pursued for future elections, however, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation exercise on alternative proposals at this late stage. A Member added that during his involvement in the polling stations review, the polling stations identified for the Park Ward were supported by Elected Ward Members.

With regard to Appendix A which outlined the existing polling districts and places 2009 a number of queries were raised relating to polling district/polling place abbreviations to which the Central Services Manger provided clarification.

Following further discussion, Members were advised that an update of Appendix A would be provided following the meeting and post election feedback into the suitability of premises would be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

Decision

- (i) That the proposed polling places, as detailed in Appendix B, be agreed .
- (ii) That an update of Appendix A be circulated following the meeting.
- (iii) That further investigation into the issues raised by Members regarding the suitability of premises including post election feedback be considered at a future meeting of this Committee.

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am.

CHAIRMAN

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

16 APRIL 2010



Report of: Director of Child and 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 and which will exist in the Summer term 2010 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 A**) is attached setting out details of vacancies which currently exist for LA representative governors and the vacancies occurring in the summer term 2010, together with applications received in respect of the vacancies (**Appendix B**). **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 In Hartlepool

Every Child Matters

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

16th April, 2010

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
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	1 vacancy	No interest expressed	
Mr J M Kay			
Clavering Primary School			
Councillor R Cook	1 vacancy	No interest expressed	
Councillor T Fleming			
Eldon Grove Primary School			
Mrs P A Vaughan	2 vacancies	No interest expressed	
Fens Primary School	Vacancy vice		
Councillor Ms A Lilley	Councillor Ms A Lilley Term of office expires 6 th June 2010	Councillor Ms A Lilley Mrs P Rayner	
Councillor A Preece			
Mrs P Rayner	Vacancy Vice Mrs P Rayner Term of office expires 31 st August, 2010		
Grange Primary School			
Councillor R Flintoff	1 vacancy	No interest expressed	
Greatham Primary School			
Mrs P Brotherton	Vacancy Vice Mrs. P. Brotherton Term of office expires 31 st August, 2010	Mrs P Brotherton Miss A G Pout Does not wish to be re-considered	
Miss A G Pout	Vacancy Vice		
	Miss A G Pout Term of office expires 20 th August 2010		

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Rift House Primary School		No interest expressed	
Councillor D. Young	Vacancy Vice		
Councillor S. Akers Belcher	Mr. J. Blackham		
Rossmere Primary School		Mrs C M O'Rourke	
Mrs M Smith	2 vacancies		
Seaton Carew Nursery		No interest expressed	
Councillor G. Lilley	Vacancy Vice		
	Mr. L. Brown		
St. Helen's Primary School		No interest expressed	
Mr J Ibbotson	Vacancy		
Miss C Lamb			
Councillor R Atkinson			
Stranton Primary School	Vacancy Vice Councillor J Lauderdale	Councillor J. Lauderdale	
Councillor J. Lauderdale	Term of office expires 31 st August 2010		
Mr. P. Gleeson			
West Park Primary School		No interest expressed	
Mrs S Kirby	1 vacancy		
Mrs M Boddy			