

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday, 31st July, 2006

at 10 a.m.

in Committee Room *C*

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN ADDITIONAL MEETING TO THE DIARY

MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors Hall, Henery, Iseley, J Marshall, Rogan, Shaw, Wallace, Wistow and Young.

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 30th June, 2006 (to follow)
4. **ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on school Governing Bodies – Director of Children’s Services (to follow)
5. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

30th June 2006

Present:

Councillors: David Young (in the Chair)

Gerard Hall, Gordon Henery, Bill Iseley, Jane Shaw and Gerald Wistow

Officers: Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Little, Assistant Chief Financial Officer (Corporate Finance)
John Collings, Assistant Director (Performance and Achievement)
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absences were submitted from Councillor John Marshall

2. Declarations of interest by members

Councillor Jane Shaw declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7.1 and indicated she would leave the meeting during consideration of this item

Councillor Gerald Wistow declared a personal and prejudicial interest in one of the applications contained in item 4.2 and indicated he would leave the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor David Young declared a personal and prejudicial interest in one of the applications contained in item 4.2 and indicated he would leave the meeting during consideration of the application.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2006

Confirmed.

4. Parish Council Election Recharges (*Chief Solicitor*)

Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of the position in respect of this issue.

Issues considered by the Committee

The Committee were reminded that at their last meeting Members had called for a further report on the issue to be brought to this meeting. Attached to the report as Appendix 1 was a copy of the report to the Portfolio Holder for Performance Management from which members were asked to note that examination of the issues raised by Councillor J Marshall had brought to the Chief Solicitor's attention the fact that the matter in question was an executive matter for the Portfolio Holder, rather than a non-executive matter for this Committee.

The Chief Solicitor asked Members to note the report and appendix and apologised for bringing the matter to the Committee initially.

Decision

The report and appendix were noted and apology accepted. The Chair drew Members' attention to a letter received from Councillor John Marshall in respect of the Parish Council Election Recharges item. This was duly noted.

5. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies (*Director of Children's Services*)

Purpose of report

To request members to make recommendations to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, in respect of the appointment of LA representative governors to serve on school governing bodies, where vacancies currently exist and on the expiry of terms of offices of governors in August 2006.

Issue(s) considered by the Committee

Members were advised that applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire and who are, interested in serving or wish to

continue to serve as a LA representative governor on school governing bodies.

The following criteria had been 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 was attached, as Appendix A, setting out details of vacancies which existed for LA representative governors and those vacancies occurring in August 2006, together with applications received in respect of the vacancies, attached as Appendix B (as 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))

Members considered each of the applications and made the following decision.

Councillor Wistow left the meeting during consideration of the application relating to Mrs K Hird. Councillor Young left the meeting during consideration of his own application.

Decision

(a) That the following recommendations, for the appointment of LEA Representative Governors, with effect from 1st September 2006, be referred to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, be approved:

Barnard Grove Primary School

Mrs D Stonehouse

Brierton Community School

Councillor M James
Mrs A Lilley

Clavering Primary School

Councillor Mrs S Griffin

Fens Primary School

Councillor Mrs P Rayner

Golden Flatts Primary School

Mrs K Hird

Grange Primary School

Mr H D Smith

Greatham CE Primary School

Mrs P Brotherton
Miss G Pout

Holy Trinity CE Aided Primary School

Councillor M W Turner

Rift House Primary School

Councillor D Young

St Helen's Primary School

Miss C Lamb

Stranton Primary School

Councillor J Lauderdale

Ward Jackson Primary School

Local Beat Officer PC M Hetherington subject to receipt of an application.

West Park Primary School

Mrs L A Mulcahy

(b) In the light of the absence of expressions of interest at this time the following vacancies were deferred:

Barnard Grove Primary School
Brougham Primary School
Catcote School
Grange Primary School
Hart Primary School
Jesmond Road Primary School

Manor College of Technology
Rift House Primary School (2 vacancies)
Springwell School
St Joseph's Primary School
Throston Primary School
Ward Jackson Primary School

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006

Minute 7 – Review of Local Authority Governor Appointment – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (para 1)

7. Review of Local Authority Governor Appointment *(Director of Children's Services and Chief Solicitor)*

Purpose of Report

To consider representations received in relation to the appointment of a local authority governor.

The issues considered are included in the exempt minutes. The Committee resolved to revoke their previous recommendation as to the appointment of an LEA Governor.

FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE ITEM THE MEETING RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION.

8. 2005/06 – Statement of Accounts *(Chief Financial Officer)*

Purpose of report

To enable members to approve the Council's 2005/06 Statement of Accounts.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report advised Members that the Council was required by statute to produce the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts in a specified format within by 30th June. The accounts are subject to audit prior to publication by 30th September.

The draft Statement of Accounts was circulated with the report. Additional information relating to pensions was also provided and it was highlighted that this additional information may affect some of the quoted figures. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer gave background information and brought a number of issues to Members attention.

Members discussed issues relating to the following:

- Consolidated Revenue Account – it was agreed that there would be an additional Officers Remuneration table indexed for inflation in the final report Also a footnote indicating that the council had no control over school staff would be added.
- Collection Fund – it was agreed that the decrease in council tax write offs would be highlighted in the report. Members felt this was a positive achievement which should be celebrated and published elsewhere. Studies had shown Hartlepool was average on the league table of unitary council tax charges and this should also be added to the report.
- Consolidated Balance Sheet
- Group Balance Sheet

Members concluded by praising officers on their management of the council's finances over the previous year. The Chair recommended that the Committee officially commend said management of monies. This was agreed unanimously.

Decision

The 2005/06 Statement of Accounts were approved subject to the following amendments

- i. That an additional Officers Remuneration Table indexed for inflation would be included in the notes to the Consolidated Revenue Account
- ii. That the decrease in Council Tax write-offs be highlighted and that its relative position on the league table of other unitary authorities be referred to.

DAVID YOUNG

CHAIRMAN

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

31 July 2006



Report of: Director of Children's 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 of those which will exist in August 2006 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 a Local Authority representative governor to serve on a school governing body.

2. BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire 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 those vacancies occurring

in August 2006, together with an application received in respect of one 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 recommendation for the appointment set out in the confidential section of the minutes, of LA representative governors be referred to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder for approval.



APPENDIX A

**VACANCIES FOR
LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
JULY, 2006**

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
Tel. 523766**

Children's Services Department

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Barnard Grove Primary School	Vacancy	No interest expressed	
Mr. J. M. Kay			
Mrs. D. Stonehouse			
Vacancy (Since September, 2004)			
Brougham Primary School			
Mrs. J. Thompson	Mr. R. Atkinson	No interest expressed	
Mr. R. Atkinson	Term of office expires 31.8.06		
Mr. A. Walker			
Catcote School			
Mrs. I. Hodgman	Mr. J. Proud	No interest expressed	
Dr. M Banim	Term of office expires 31.8.06		
Mr. J. Proud			
Grange Primary School			
Mrs. J. Hamilton	Mrs. Hamilton term of office expires	No interest expressed	
Mr. H. D. Smith	31.8.06		
Mr. R. Flintoff			
Hart Primary School			
Mrs. D. Adamson	Mr. W. Knowles – term of office expires	No interest expressed	
Mr. W. Knowles	31.8.06		
Jesmond Road Primary School			
Councillor Mrs. J. Shaw	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	
Mrs. D. Adamson	Mr. R. Addison		
Mr. M. H. Ward			
Vacancy			

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Manor College of Technology			
Councillor A. Preece	Mrs. J. Hamilton – term of office	No interest expressed	
Mrs. E. Blakey	expires 31.8.06		
Mrs. J. Hamilton			
Mr. F. Reid			
Rift House Primary School			
Mrs. M. Coser	Mrs M Coser and Mr J Proud	No interest expressed	
Councillor D. Young	terms of office expire 31.8.06		
Mr. J. Proud			
Rossmere Primary School			
Mrs. D. Stonehouse	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	
Mrs. M. Smith	Mrs. L. Hodgson		
Vacancy			
Springwell School			
Mrs. E. Parkinson	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	
Vacancy	Mr. C. Row ntree		
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School			
Mrs. J. Ganzerla	Mrs. J. Ganzerla – term of office expires	No interest expressed	
	31.8.06		
Throston Primary School			
Councillor H. Clouth	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	
Miss J. Norman	Councillor P. Jackson		
	Removed non-attendance		
Ward Jackson Primary School			
	One vacancy only		
Mr. M. Ruddock	Mr. M. Ruddock – term of office expires	Clr J J F Brash	
Vacancy	31.8.06		
Vacancy			