

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



12th November 2012

at 2.00 pm

in Committee Room A, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Cook, Fisher, James, G Lilley, Richardson, Simmons, Sirs and Wells.

- 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 24th September 2012
- 4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No items
- 6. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

24 September 2012

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Rob Cook (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Marjorie James, Geoff Lilley, Carl Richardson, Kaylee Sirs and Ray Wells

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii), Councillor Sheila Griffin was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Chris Simmons

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Gillian Laight, HR Business Partner
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Edwin Jeffries, UNISON
Steve Williams, UNISON
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

87. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keith Fisher and Chris Simmons.

88. Declarations of interest by Members

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

89. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2012

Confirmed.

90. Request for Observers to Attend Appeal Hearings *(Hartlepool Joint Trades Union Committee (HJTUC) and Human Resources Business Partner)*

The report sought agreement from the General Purposes Committee that, where an Appellant was in agreement, Council and Trade Union

Representatives may attend General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committee Hearings as non-participating observers when considering employment based appeals from employees.

Members noted that they had considered this request at a previous meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 5 March 2012 and at that meeting had made it clear that it was not considered appropriate for observers to be in attendance at Appeal Hearings. However, it was noted that this request was submitted to the Committee after being raised at a Local Joint Consultative Committee on 16 August 2012 and was a joint request from both the Union Representatives and HR Officers. Both the Union Representatives and HR Officers considered that the exposure to 'live' Appeal Hearings was a very effective way to train and develop officers who would potentially be attending and supporting employees at future meetings.

The Chair suggested that this item be deferred for consideration after the next item on the agenda to enable those officers to return to their day to day duties.

Decision

Details were included later in the minutes.

91. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

The report provided Members with an update in respect of vacancies that currently existed for Local Authority representative governors serving on school governing bodies. A schedule of vacancies was attached at Appendix 1, **this item contained 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 the vacancies as follows:

Manor College of Technology – Members were informed that Mr A Preece had been appointed as an associate member of the Governing Body. However he had expressed an interest to remain under consideration for the Local Authority representative vacancy should there be no other expressions of interest received.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Kaylee Sirs declared a prejudicial interest in relation to this item and left the meeting.

In relation to the Local Authority Representative appointments at Manor College of Technology, Members were concerned that there had been no

expressions of interest declared by other Members as they did not want to displace Mr Arthur Preece as Local Authority representative as he had been a long standing and active Local Authority representative on the Governing Body. It was therefore proposed that Members who represent the South Area of the town be approached to ascertain if there were any expressions of interest in the Local Authority Representative position on Manor College of Technology. Should no expressions of interest be received, it was suggested that Mr Arthur Preece be approached to ascertain if he wishes to continue in the role of Local Authority Representative on Manor College of Technology.

Jesmond Gardens Primary School – Councillor Linda Shields - recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

St Cuthbert's RC Primary School – It was noted that not all Members were aware there was a vacancy for a Local Authority representative at St Cuthbert's RC Primary School. It was therefore suggested that all Members be given the opportunity to express an interest in this vacancy for consideration at a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

West Park Primary School – Councillor Brenda Loynes – recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

Councillor Kaylee Sirs rejoined the meeting.

Decision

- (i) That the following nominations to vacancies for Local Authority Representatives on governing bodies be submitted to the Portfolio Holder for consideration:

Jesmond Gardens Primary School – Councillor Linda Shields
West Park Primary School – Councillor Brenda Loynes

- (ii) Manor College of Technology - That Members representing the wards in the south area of the town be approached to express an interest in the Local Authority Representative position on the governing body of Manor College of Technology. Should no expressions of interest be received, Mr Arthur Preece be approached to ascertain if he wishes to continue in the role of Local Authority Representative on Manor College of Technology.
- (iii) St Cuthbert's RC Primary School – That expressions of interest be invited from Members in the vacancy for a Local Authority Representative on the governing body of St Cuthbert's RC Primary School.

90. Request for Observers to Attend Appeal Hearings
(Hartlepool Joint Trades Union Committee (HJTUC) and Human Resources Business Partner)

Referring to previous discussions, Members reiterated their disappointment that the General Purposes Committee was being requested to reconsider an issue when a decision had already been made. The concerns expressed previously that the attendance of any observers in meetings where particular sensitive and personal issues could be discussed were emphasised.

A Member recollected the suggestion made at the General Purposes Committee on 5 March 2012 when this issue was originally considered, that the in-house training currently delivered by the Economic Development Team to local businesses in relation to HR issues be considered for delivery to Members, officers and Trades Union representatives who were potential participants at future General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committees. Members were disappointed that this suggestion had not been explored. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that this option would be explored further, including the possibility of undertaking 'mock hearings' and progress would be fed back to Members. It was also suggested that the issue of training be explored with the Trades Union Joint Secretaries and through the North East Provisional Council arrangements.

Members reiterated the decision taken by the General Purposes Committee on 5 March 2012 that they did not agree to the principle of observers attending General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committees.

Decision

- (i) The request to agree in principle to observers being allowed to attend General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committee hearings was refused.
- (ii) That the development of a training programme to be delivered to Members, Officers and Trades Union Representatives be explored.
- (iii) The potential to involve the Trades Unions Joint Secretaries and North East Provisional Council in the training programme also be explored.

91. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Details were included earlier in the minutes.

92. HR Function Update *(Acting Chief Executive)*

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods provided Members with an update on the provision of the Council's HR Function. Members were of the view that the current arrangements in relation to the provision of the Council's HR Function were not creating any risks to the Council. Whilst it was recognised that the long term Strategic HR Provision for the Council may need further examination in the future, Members requested that their absolute faith in the current HR Business Partners be passed on to them for guiding all Members and Officers through Human Resources issues in view of the recent staffing changes. In addition, Members wanted to emphasise that they were looking to the HR Business Partners as an integral part of the provision of any future Human Resources function for the Council.

The Chair agreed to write to the HR Business Partners expressing Members' views as noted above.

Decision

- (i) The update provided was noted.
- (ii) The Chair of the Committee to write to the HR Business Partners expressing Members' views as noted above.

93. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 3.16 pm.

CHAIR

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

12th November, 2012



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 serving on school governing bodies where some interest has been expressed in the vacancies, and to request members to make recommendations to the Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder in respect of the appointments to 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.

3. PROPOSAL

A schedule (**Appendix 1**) is attached setting out details of vacancies which currently exist for LA representative governors, where interest has been expressed in the vacancies 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)**

Member's attention is drawn to the decision of the General Purposes Committee on 24th September 2012 at which, members of the Committee requested that vacancies for LA Governors be drawn to the attention of all elected representatives in order that they may submit an application in respect of any of the vacancies that they might be interested in that currently exist for LA Governors.

4. 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 and Community Services Portfolio Holder for approval.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Schedule of vacancies
- Applications
- General Purposes decision record 24th September 2012.

6. CONTACT OFFICER:

**Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer, telephone 523766
email ann.turner@hartlepool.gov.uk**

**VACANCIES FOR
LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
ON GOVERNING BODIES**

NOVEMBER, 2012

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
01429 523766**

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Brougham Primary School		No interest	
Mr S Marshall	1 vacancy		
Mr S Thomas			
Catcote School			
Mr S Wallace	2 vacancies	No interest	
Eldon Grove Primary School			
Mrs J Butterworth	1 vacancy	No interest	
Mrs P Vaughan			
Fens Primary School			
Mrs P Heward	1 vacancy	No interest	
Mr a Preece			
Golden Flatts Primary School			
Councillor C Hill	2 vacancies	No interest	
Grange Primary School	2 vacancies	No interest	

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Holy Trinity CE Aided Primary School	1 vacancy	No interest	
Jesmond Gardens Primary School Mr M Ward Mrs S Saint	1 vacancy	No interest	
Lynnfield Primary School Councillor C Richardson Councillor C Simmons	2 vacancies	No interest	
Manor College of Technology	1 vacancy	Mr A Preece Councillor A Lilley	
Owton Manor Primary School Mrs J Thompson Mrs M Raine Councillor M James	1 vacancy	No interest	
Rift House Primary School Councillor S Tempest Councillor M James	1 vacancy	Councillor Paul R Beck	
Rossmere Primary School Mrs M Smith	1 vacancy	No interest	
Springwell School Mrs L Barraclough	1 vacancy	No interest	
St Cuthberts RC Primary School	1 vacancy	Councillor C Aker-Belcher Councillor K Sirs	