

**APPOINTMENTS – COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Report of the Head of Law and Governance**

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider changes to appointments and new appointments proposed to the under-mentioned bodies and to the position of Independent Person.

**2.0 Local Plan Members' Steering Group**

- 2.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 17 May 2017, the Cabinet Secretary and the Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee, Councillor R. Bell, were appointed to the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group.
- 2.2 Council is advised that subsequently the Group has been re-named to the Local Plan Members' Steering Group and also requires additional representation of the Portfolio Holders for City Services and Health, Housing and Adult Services.

**3.0 Appointment to Sunderland Homes Limited**

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 25 January 2017, approval was given to appoint the Cabinet Secretary, the Portfolio Holder for Health Housing and Adult Services, the Chief Operating Officer (Place) and the Executive Director of Corporate Services as directors of the Housing Development Local Authority Trading Company now known as Sunderland Homes Limited (SHL).
- 3.2 As the Executive Director of Economy and Place is now in post, it is requested that he be appointed to replace the Chief Operating Officer (Place) as a director of the Company.

**4.0 Health Scrutiny Committee between South Tyneside and Sunderland Local Authorities**

- 4.1 At the Annual Council meeting on 17 May 2017, approval was given to appoint Councillor Howe as the Majority Group in Opposition representative on the Committee.

- 4.2 The Majority Group in Opposition have now requested that Councillor Leadbitter be appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Howe, in view of her experience in health services and provision.

## **5. Appointment of Independent Person**

- 5.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to appoint an Independent Person (IP), whose views are sought and taken into account in connection with the standards regime. Following changes to legislation, the IP also has an advisory role in connection with any proposed dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Finance Officer (section 151 officer) or Monitoring Officer. The term of office for the IP is two years, with power to extend on two subsequent occasions (i.e. 6 years in total). The allowance payable to the IP is £1,000 per annum, together with reasonable travel and subsistence costs.
- 5.2 The term of office of the Council's current IP, Sheba Joseph, expires at the end of September. Following public advertisement, consideration of applications received and interview of shortlisted candidates by a Panel comprised of Cllrs H. Trueman, Mordey and Wood, together with the Head of Law and Governance, it is recommended that Council appoint Mr Dennis Hall to the post, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.
- 5.3 Mr Hall recently retired from local government, his most recent post being that of Commercial Manager and Solicitor at Gateshead Council. He is a former monitoring officer and has extensive knowledge and experience of local government in general and, of particular relevance to this role, of advising Standards and other committees, as well as town and parish councils, on issues of probity and ethics. He also has experience of conducting and reporting on investigations.

## **4.0 Recommendations**

The Council is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) appoint the Portfolio Holders for City Services and Health, Housing and Adult Services to the Local Plan Members' Steering Group in addition to the Cabinet Secretary and the Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee, Councillor R. Bell;
- (ii) appoint the Executive Director of Economy and Place in place of the Chief Operating Officer (Place) as a director of Sunderland Homes Limited;
- (iii) appoint Councillor Leadbitter in place of Councillor Howe on the Health Scrutiny Committee between South Tyneside and Sunderland Local Authorities; and

- (iv) appoint Dennis Hall as Independent Person for an initial period of two years, with effect from 1 October 2017, on the terms set out in this report.