

Item no.

Report to: **District Council of Easington**

Date: **6 November, 2008**

Report of: **Head of Democratic Services**

Subject: **Casual Vacancy - Deneside Ward of the District of Easington/Seaham Harbour North Ward of Seaham Town Council**

Ward:

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To report upon casual vacancies in the Deneside Ward of the District of Easington and the Seaham Harbour North Ward of Seaham Town Council arising from the death of Councillor Peter Campbell.

The report also advises Council of arrangements for filling vacancies on a number of District Council Committees/Panels and seeks approval of replacement appointments to two outside bodies.

2. **Consultation**

In preparing this report I have consulted with the Returning Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

3. **Background**

3.1 **Casual Vacancy – Deneside Ward of the District of Easington**

Following the death of Councillor Campbell, there is a casual vacancy within the District Council for the Deneside Ward.

In accordance with Regulation 13 of The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations 2008, the Council is not required to fill the District vacancy as it has occurred within six months of the reorganisation date.

3.2 **Appointments to Committees/Panels of the Council**

As a Member of the District Council, Councillor Campbell sat on a number of Committees/Panels. In accordance with political balance requirements, the appropriate political party was asked to make appointments to the following vacant positions:-

Community Services Scrutiny Committee
Employee Welfare Panel (Pool Member)
Regulatory Appeals Panel (Core Member)
Appointments and Appeals Panel (Core Member)

The party has given notice that Councillor T Unsworth has been appointed as a core Member of the Appointments and Appeals Panel and Councillor D Maddison has been appointed to the core membership of the Regulatory Appeals Panel (Councillor Maddison is currently a pool Member of that Panel).

The remaining positions on the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, and on the pool membership of both the Employee Welfare Panel and Regulatory Appeals Panel, will not be filled.

In addition to his membership on the Committees/Panels referred to, Councillor Campbell was Chair of the Regulatory Appeals Panel.

Accordingly, the Council is requested to elect a Member to this vacant position.

3.3 Representatives on Outside Bodies

In addition to the vacant positions on Committees/Panels, vacancies have arisen on the following outside bodies:-

Durham Police Committee – Local Consultative Committee
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Accordingly, the Council is asked to nominate one Member to replace Councillor Campbell on the Durham Police Committee – Local Consultative Committee, and two Members to replace Councillors Campbell and Mrs Williams on the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

3.4 Casual Vacancy – Seaham Harbour North Ward of Seaham Town Council

Seaham Town Council will be required under Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 to give public notice of their resultant vacancy.

4. Implications

4.1 Legal, Policy, Financial, Risk, Communications and Local Government Review Implications

There are none arising from the report.

4.2 Corporate Implications

There are no corporate implications arising from the report.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

- (i) the Council notes that it is not required to fill the vacancy in the Deneside District Ward in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations 2008;
- (ii) the appointments made to the Committees/Panels specified in Section 3.2 of the report, be confirmed;

- (iii) a Member be elected to the position of Chair of the Regulatory Appeals Panel;
- (iv) appointments be made to the following outside bodies, in accordance with Section 3.3 of the report:-

Durham Police Committee – Local Consultative Committee
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- (v) the Council notes the position regarding the resultant vacancy on Seaham Town Council.

Background Papers/Documents Referred to

Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations 2008
Local Government Act 1972

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