

Delegated Decision

15 June 2021

**Charter Trustees - representation for
Esh and Witton Gilbert Ward**



Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Esh & Witton Gilbert.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To change the appointed representative for the Esh and Witton Gilbert electoral division on the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 At the annual meeting of Council on 26 May 2021, the composition of the Charter Trust was agreed as set out set out in the Report on Appointments to Joint Bodies and Other Bodies 2021/22 Appendix 4.
- 3 The representative for, Esh & Witton Gilbert was appointed based on the criteria that they received the highest number of votes for their Electoral Division at the 2021 County Election.
- 4 The Member with the highest votes has subsequently written to decline the appointment in favour of the Member with the second highest votes.

Recommendation(s)

- 5 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services exercises delegated authority to appoint the County Councillor who received the second highest number of votes in the recent local election for the Esh & Witton Gilbert Division as representative on the Charter Trustees for City of Durham.

Background

- 6 On 20 March 2013, the Council agreed the composition of the Charter Trust on 20 March 2013 following the Electoral Boundary Review of County Durham.
- 7 The composition of the Charter Trust is as set out in Appendix 2 and approved by Bodies 2021/22 agreed by Full Council on 26 May 2021.
- 8 In particular, it was agreed that for the three electoral divisions being Trimdon and Thornley; Willington and Hunwick; and Esh and Witton Gilbert areas, the representative will be one Member from each of these areas receiving the highest number of votes for their Electoral Division at the 2021 County Election.
- 9 It was further agreed that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority, in consultation with the appropriate Group Leader(s), to make any changes to memberships of the main outside bodies/joint bodies approved by Council, which may become necessary during the course of 2021/22.
- 10 The Member for Esh & Witton Gilbert with the highest votes has declined the appointment to the Charter Trustees. It is therefore proposed that the Member with the second highest votes for that electoral division is appointed to the Charter Trust.
- 11 The purpose of allowing one Member to represent the Esh & Witton Gilbert area is to allow the local community electorate who will be paying the Charter Trust precept for their area to have a representative upon the Charter Trust. The Member with the second highest votes has close community ties with the area concerned and has previously served on the Charter Trust. It is therefore considered appropriate to make this change. There are no other elected Members for the division.

Conclusion

- 12 It is therefore recommended that the County Councillor who received the second highest number of votes in the May 2021 County Council election for the Esh & Witton Gilbert Electoral Division is appointed to the Charter Trust.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Council delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the relevant group leaders to make in year changes to the appointments to outside bodies. This change can be implemented without a further report to Council.

Finance

None.

Consultation

Councillor Amanda Hopgood was consulted as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on 11 June 2021 and is supportive of the recommendations.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are two County Councillors for the Esh and Witton Gilbert electoral division. There are no equality and diversity implications arising out of the proposed change where the councillor with the most votes has declined to take up their seat on the Charter Trust.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Membership of the Charter Trust for the City of Durham

1. Members representing any of the electoral areas as set out below which remain wholly within the original Charter Trustees boundary:-
 -) Belmont
 -) Brandon
 -) Coxhoe
 -) Durham South
 -) Elvet and Gilesgate
 -) Framwellgate and Newton Hall
 -) Neville's Cross
 -) Sherburn
2. The three Elected Members of the Deerness Electoral Division.
3. The Trustees representing the Trimdon and Thornley: Willington and Hunwick; and Esh and Witton Gilbert areas be one Member from each of these areas receiving the highest number of votes for their Electoral Division at the 2021 County Election.