



Report of Corporate Management Team

Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration Economy and Growth

Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

None.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To agree appointments to the Business Durham Advisory Board.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Business Durham Advisory Board acts in an advisory capacity to provide a partnership of private sector and political membership to inform the Council's business support services delivered through the Council's Business Durham Service, which is part of the Regeneration Economy and Growth Directorate.
- 3 On the 26 May, the Council considered a report proposing a number of appointments to Joint Bodies and Other Bodies for the current municipal year. The report noted that 7 members are appointed to the Business Durham Advisory Board by the County Council. In previous years, 6 of the positions have been appointed to from the largest group, with the second largest group appointing the final member.
- 4 The members from the largest group have traditionally included:
 - (a) The Chair of the Council;
 - (b) The Leader of the Council;
 - (c) The Deputy Leader of the Council; and
 - (d) The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration and Cabinet member for Housing and Assets.

(e) Climate change lead

- 5 For consistency it's proposed that the membership remains with the thematic and cabinet portfolios as per the previous year meaning 6 members from the joint administration groups of the Council. There will also be a place for the leader from the opposition group, it is however also proposed that the leader of the opposition is now afforded a nominated deputy for in the event of an issue with availability.

Recommendation(s)

6 Council is recommended to:

- (a) Appoint the Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships and the portfolio holder for Housing and Assets and to the Business Durham Advisory Board for the municipal year 21/22.
- (b) To appoint the Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods and Climate to support on the wider and strategic linkages between climate change and business for the municipal year 21/22.
- (c) To appoint the leader of the Labour Group to the board for the municipal year 21/22 and include a provision for an official named deputy for if the leader of the Labour Group is not available.

Background

- 7 The role of the Business Durham Advisory Board, which meets quarterly, is as follows:
- To provide advice on the core functions of Business Durham and support the council's activity through our Business Durham Service particularly in regard to its targets and objectives as outlined in the business plan.
 - To provide a focus for and influence on Durham County Council economic policy and strategy and proposals as they relate to Business Durham operations, through acting as a critical friend.
 - Offer a broad public and private sector perspective to the Councils activities through Business Durham and to promote our services and activity externally.
 - To offer insight through experience into the business world and the global economy
 - To act as champions and ambassadors for County Durham businesses and its economy
- 8 The board is an advisory board however the Council particularly values the input from key private sector businesses to act as the voice on business when shaping our business support services. The Advisory Board is therefore constituted from three groups:
- Durham County Council elected members, appointed by the Council
 - Private sector business representatives
 - Key business-related stakeholders and groups, e.g., North East England Chamber of Commerce (NEECC), Department for International Trade (DIT), County Durham Enterprise Agencies.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.