

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on 25 August 2004.

PRESENT: Councillor Clark (Chair), Councillors Carr, J A Jones, Mrs H Pearson and Porley.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington, D Clemmet, C Davies, R Painter, P Slocombe and T Sutcliffe.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Porley Personal Interest School Governing Body (St. Pius X R C Primary School)

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee held on 20 April 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2003/2004

In a report of the Director of Resources the Committee was informed of the 2003/2004 draft Statement of Accounts, which had been compiled in accordance with statutory regulations and guidance. It was confirmed that District Audit had commenced the audit of the Statement of Accounts.

The report referred to the main components of the Accounts as follows:

Appendix A - Consolidated Revenue Account
Appendix B - Consolidated Balance Sheet
Appendix C - Housing Revenue Account.

Members' attention was drawn to two areas of concern in respect of the following: -

- (a) processes and procedures within Council Tax/Non Domestic Rates which showed a deficit of £858,000;
- (b) processes relating to the formal returns to the Inland Revenue in respect of the Payroll.

In response, the Committee was advised that a Revenue Review Team had been established and an Action Plan initiated in respect of (a) above and action taken to address the situation in relation to (b).

The Committee acknowledged the achievement of an overall underspend of £260,000 in 2003/04 across the services.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the 2002/2003 draft Statement of Accounts be approved.
2. That the areas of concern as outlined at (a) and (b) above together with the subsequent action taken be noted and a further report submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
3. That the Committee's congratulations be conveyed to the staff concerned in recognition of the tremendous hard work in achieving the under spend across the services and the continuing efforts to seek improvement.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES - LEA SCHOOL GOVERNORS - APPOINTMENTS

The Head of Education Planning and Information submitted a report relating to vacancies for LEA appointed School Governors, which had arisen as a result of resignations, the expiry of terms of office or the removal of School Governors owing to non-attendance, and any vacancies deferred from previous meetings of the Corporate Affairs Committee.

Members were required to consider certain Governors whose terms of office would have or were to expire on 12 June, 31 August, 4 September and 31 December 2004.

It was noted that there were currently 12 vacancies out of a total of 142 Governorships for LEA representatives, which equated to 8%.

In view of the forthcoming changes to Governing Body constitutional arrangements whereby the number of LEA Governors on each Governing Body was likely to reduce it was suggested that consideration be given to ensuring that there was adequate LEA representation on all Governing Bodies.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That the following appointments be approved with immediate effect until such time as the respective Governing Body is reconstituted:

<u>School</u>	<u>Governors</u>
Archibald Primary	Mrs A Kay
St. Pius X R C Primary	Councillor Porley
The Newland's F C J	Mr L J Herbst

2. That the following be re-appointed for a four year term of office:

<u>School</u>	<u>Governors</u>
Berwick Hills Primary	Miss A Smith
Brambles Primary	Mrs M Patterson
Caldicotes Primary	Mrs M Patterson
	Councillor Rooney
St. Alphonsus R.C. Primary	Mr M Hawthorne
St. Joseph's R C Primary	Mr J Whittingham
St. Thomas More R C Primary	Councillor Budd
Sunnyside Primary	Councillor P Thompson
Thorntree Primary	Mrs E Ways
Holmwood	Mrs J Duncan
Tollesby	Mr T Gasper
	Mr I Bruce

3. That the following vacancies remain until such time as the outcome of the reconstitution of the respective Governing Body is known: -

Archibald Primary School
St. Augustine's R C Primary School
Viewley Hill Primary School.

4. That appointments to the following vacancies be deferred pending the receipt of nominations in respect of: -

Breckon Hill Primary School
Park End Primary School

Whinney Banks Primary School
Beverley School

5. That it be noted that following the reconstitution of the Marton Grove Primary School Governing Body the number of LEA Governors had been reduced to two although there was the opportunity for two co-opted representatives.
6. That the following appointments be approved for a four year term of office: -

<u>School</u>	<u>Governors</u>
Hemlington Hall Primary	Miss J B Cummins
King's Manor Secondary	Mr T O'Neill.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE – OUTSIDE BODIES

The Members' Office Manager presented a report, which sought instructions regarding the appointments to the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee following changes to the political balance and appointments or changes to various representatives on Outside Bodies.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That Councillor Mrs H Pearson be appointed to the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee in place of Councillor Biswas.
2. That Councillor J A Jones be appointed to the Provincial Employer's Association (North East) in place of Councillor N J Walker.
3. That Mrs P Rogers be appointed to the St. Mary's College Governing Body.
4. That Councillor A E Ward be appointed to Dial A Ride (Middlesbrough) Ltd.
5. That Councillor T Ward be appointed to Dorman Museum and Art Gallery Trust.
6. That Councillor B Taylor be appointed to the Levick Trust in place of Councillor N J Walker.
7. That a decision regarding the representatives on the Middlesbrough CAB Management Committee be deferred.
8. That in accordance with the constitution of the Middlesbrough Partnership which provides for only two places the Council's representatives be reduced to the two Executive Members, Councillors Budd and Coppinger.
9. That a decision regarding the nomination to the North East Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committee – REPAC be deferred.
10. That Mr P McGrath be appointed to the Schools Group (Primary School Category) on the Schools Organisation Committee for a term of three years.

MEMBER'S SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES

The Members' Office Manager submitted a report which sought formal approval to the amended Member's Scheme of Allowances following decisions of Middlesbrough Council as follows: -

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| (a) | 10 December 2003 | Special Responsibility Allowance in respect of the Mayor increased from £45,000 to £50,000 |
| (b) | 4 May 2004 | Co-optees Allowance of £5,000 be payable to the Chair of the Standards Committee. |

In response to a Members' question it was noted that a report would be submitted to the Committee following the appointment process relating to the three current vacancies on the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration.

ORDERED that the amended Member's Scheme of Allowances as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair referred to the appointments made at the Council's Annual General Meeting held on 12 May 2004.

ORDERED that Councillor Porley be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Affairs Committee 2004/05 in place of Councillor Carr.