

**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 25 May 2022.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Hobson, A Bell (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, D Branson, C Cooke, B Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, S Dean, C Dodds, T Furness, N Gascoigne, TA Grainge, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, A High, S Hill, C Hobson, B Hubbard, N Hussain, D Jones, L Lewis, L Mason, T Mawston, C McIntyre, J McTigue, M Nugent, J Platt, E Polano, A Preston (The Mayor), G Purvis, D Rooney, J Rostron, R Sands, M Saunders, M Smiles, M Storey, P Storey, J Thompson, Z Uddin, J Walker, S Walker, G Wilson and C Wright

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, S Bonner, C Breheny, B Carr, G Field, D Johnson, S Lightwing, A Pain, T Parkinson, A Perriman, K Whitmore and I Wright

22/1 **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR - 2022 – 2023**

The Vice-Chair of the Council pro tem invited the Monitoring Officer to request nominations for the Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023.

A nomination was received in respect of Councillor J Hobson.

**ORDERED** that Councillor J Hobson be elected as the Chair of the Council for the Borough of Middlesbrough to hold office for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023 pro tem.

The newly elected Chair proceeded to Chair the meeting for the remainder of the agenda items.

22/2 **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR - 2022 - 2023**

The Chair of the Council invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023.

Nominations were received in respect of Councillor Bell and Councillor Uddin.

On a vote being taken, Councillor Bell received 24 votes and Councillor Uddin received 20 votes.

**ORDERED** that Councillor Bell be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the Borough of Middlesbrough to hold office for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023 pro tem.

22/3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor McCabe and Councillor Rathmell.

22/4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

22/5 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 30 MARCH 2022**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 March 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

22/6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair announced with great sadness, the death of John Robert Foster, former Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council and Freeman of the Borough.

Mr Foster was Chief Executive of Middlesbrough from 1973 to 1995. He was made a Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough in 1996, and he also served as a former Deputy Lord

Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. Mr Foster also received an OBE in 1986.

The Chair invited all those present at the meeting to join him in a minutes' silence in memory of John Foster.

22/7

### **POLITICAL BALANCE - ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES - 2022 - 2023**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report in respect of Political Balance Allocation of Places for the Municipal year of 2022/2023, the purpose of which was to recommend the allocation of places on Committees and Sub-Committees for 2022/2023 in accordance with the political balance of the Council.

**ORDERED** as follows:

1. That the allocation of seats on committees that were subject to the rules relating to political balance be approved as follows:

Name of Group/Unallocated	No. of Seats
Conservative	11
Labour	75
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	38
Middlesbrough Independent Group (MIG)	34
Unallocated/Vacancy	15

2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 15 of the report, and to make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace members where directed by the relevant group or member.
3. That any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Table 3 attached to the report.

22/8

### **EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

As required by the Council's Constitution, a report was submitted setting out membership of the Executive appointed by the Mayor, included at Appendix B of the report. Details of the Executive Scheme of Delegation, were also included at Appendix A of the report, delegating responsibility for certain functions to the Executive, Individual Executive Members, Executive Sub-Committees, joint arrangements and, where appropriate, officers of the Council.

The Mayor advised that there was an error within the Executive Scheme of Delegation that had been circulated with the agenda papers. The error was on page 39 of the AGM Reports Pack with regard to the wording within Cllr Grainge's Executive portfolio.

The wording in the Executive Scheme of Delegation that had been circulated stated that "the Executive Member will work in conjunction with the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services and will also take responsibility for making sure that the council engages with young adults and all groups, encouraging increased levels of democratic engagement".

This should instead have read,

"The Executive Member will work in conjunction with the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services and will also take responsibility for making sure that the council engages with relevant young people in an effort to prevent youth re-offending".

**ORDERED** that the report, incorporating the above amendment in respect of the portfolio of Councillor Grainge, be noted.

22/9

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEES - ESTABLISHMENT - TERMS OF REFERENCE - ALLOCATION OF PLACES - MEMBERSHIPS - 2022 - 2023**

Council received a report of the Monitoring Officer, regarding the establishment of committees, sub-committees, boards, panels and working groups for the 2022 - 2023

Municipal Year, or until amended by Council, (whichever was the latter)

Schedule A of the report submitted set out the Executive and Executive Sub-Committees and Advisory Bodies as agreed by the Mayor.

Schedules B and C identified the nominations received from the various groups and individual Councillors for places on the committees to be established by the Council in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Political Groups and Committees) Regulations 1990.

The report included a list of current vacancies on various committees and nominations were put forward at the meeting by the individual Members' concerned.

The Monitoring Officer conducted a vote in respect of the role of Chair/Vice Chair and nominations for spare places, where applicable, in relation to the following committees:

### **Schedule B**

#### **LIVE WELL – SOUTH TEES HEALTH BOARD**

2 Vacancies – open to all Members  
1 nomination: Councillor D Davison

**Councillor D Davison appointed**  
**1 VACANCY**

### **Schedule C**

#### **CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

1 nomination for Chair: Councillor Mawston  
**Chair: Councillor Mawston appointed**

#### **CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Councillor J Hobson appointed**  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Bell appointed**

#### **CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Hubbard and Councillor Rooney  
**Following a vote Councillor Hubbard was appointed as Chair**

1 nomination from Councillor Platt for Vice Chair  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Platt appointed**

1 Vacancy – open to all Members  
1 nomination: Councillor C Hobson  
**Councillor C Hobson appointed**

#### **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING GROUP**

1 nomination for Chair from Councillor Branson  
**Chair: Councillor Branson appointed**

2 Vacancies: – open to all Members  
1 nomination: Councillor J Hobson

**Councillor J Hobson appointed**  
**1 VACANCY**

#### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

1 nomination for Chair from Councillor C Hobson  
**Chair: Councillor C Hobson appointed**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair from Councillor Davison  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Davison appointed**

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Arundale and Councillor Cooke  
**Following a vote, Councillor Arundale was appointed as Chair**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair from Councillor Polano  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Polano appointed**

2 Vacancies – open to all Members  
1 nomination: Councillor McCabe

**Councillor McCabe appointed**  
**1 VACANCY**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Saunders and Councillor Thompson  
**Following a vote, Councillor Saunders was appointed as Chair**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair from Councillor Mawston  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Mawston appointed**

**AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL**

4 Vacancies – open to all Members  
4 nominations: Councillor Dean, Hellaoui, Higgins and Rooney  
**Councillor Dean, Councillor Hellaoui, Councillor Higgins, Councillor Rooney appointed.**

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

1 nomination for Chair: Councillor Platt  
**Chair: Councillor Platt appointed**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair: Councillor Wilson  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Wilson appointed**

1 Vacancy: 1 nomination from Councillor Sands  
**Councillor Sands appointed**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES' LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL**

1 nomination for Chair: Councillor McCabe  
**Chair: Councillor McCabe appointed**

1 nomination for Vice Chair: Councillor Saunders  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Saunders appointed**

1 Vacancy: 1 nomination from Councillor C Hobson  
**Councillor C Hobson appointed**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES' SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Davison and Uddin  
**Following a vote, Councillor Davison was appointed as Chair**

1 nomination for Vice Chair: Councillor Mawston  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Mawston appointed**

**1 VACANCY**

**CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Lewis and McIntyre  
**Following a vote, Councillor McIntyre was appointed as Chair**

1 nomination for Vice Chair: Councillor Wilson  
**Vice Chair: Councillor Wilson appointed**

1 Vacancy: 1 nomination from Councillor McCabe  
**Councillor McCabe appointed**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Furness and McTigue

**Following a vote, Councillor McTigue was appointed as Chair**

2 nominations for Vice-Chair; Councillors Arundale and Thompson

**Following a vote, Councillor Arundale was appointed as Vice-Chair**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

1 nomination for Chair: Councillor Jones

**Chair: Councillor Jones appointed**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair: Councillor McIntyre

**Vice Chair: Councillor McIntyre appointed**

1 Vacancy: 1 nomination: Councillor Davison

**Councillor Davison appointed**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1 nomination for Chair: Councillor J Hobson

**Chair: Councillor J Hobson appointed**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair: Councillor Coupe

**Vice Chair: Councillor Coupe appointed**

**STAFF APPEALS COMMITTEE**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Bell and Councillor Dean

**Following a vote, Councillor Bell was appointed as Chair**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair: Councillor Cooper

**Vice Chair: Councillor Cooper appointed**

1 Vacancy: originally reserved for Labour

1 Labour nomination: Councillor Thompson

**Councillor Thompson appointed**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

1 nomination for Chair: Councillor Mawston

**Chair: Councillor Mawston appointed**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair: Councillor Saunders

**Vice Chair: Councillor Saunders appointed**

**TEESSIDE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE**

2 nominations for Chair: Councillor Coupe and Councillor Furness

**Following a vote, Councillor Coupe appointed**

1 nomination for Vice-Chair: Councillor Polano

**Vice Chair: Councillor Polano appointed**

3 Vacancies:

2 Vacancies – open to all Members: 1 nomination: Councillor Hill

1 Vacancy open to MIG: 1 nomination: Councillor McCabe

**Councillor Hill and Councillor McCabe appointed**

**1 VACANCY**

**WORKS COUNCIL**

**Chair is Deputy Mayor**

2 Vacancies: 1 nomination: Councillor Saunders

**Councillor Saunders appointed**

## 1 VACANCY

**ORDERED** as follows:

1. That the terms of reference of committees, sub committees, boards panels and working groups, as detailed in the schedule to the report, be approved.
2. That subject to the receipt of nominations to vacancies or amendments to places indicated in the schedule to the report, that the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors, be approved.
3. That the membership, size and terms of reference of the Executive and its sub-committees, approved by the Mayor for 2022 onwards, as set out in Schedule A, in the Appendix to the report, be noted.
4. That the vacancies, listed at Paragraph 6 of the report, be filled in accordance with political group and other councillors' preferences.

22/10

## **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE TO JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES - 2022 - 2023**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report regarding the appointment of representatives to joint committees and outside bodies.

**ORDERED** as follows:-

1. That appointments to the organisations shown in Appendix A (Council nominations), Appendix B (Council/Executive nominations) and Appendix C (Executive appointments of the report submitted, for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year be approved, until amended by Council/Executive, (whichever was the latter).
2. That the following appointments for the 2022-20233 Municipal Year, nominated at the meeting, be approved and noted, until amended by Council/Executive (whichever was the latter).

### **Durham Darlington Teesside Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Committee**

Councillor Saunders appointed

### **River Tees Port Health Authority**

Councillor Branson appointed

### **South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

1 VACANCY

### **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

1 VACANCY

### **Tees Valley Combined Authority – Audit and Governance Committee**

Councillor Hubbard appointed

### **North East Regional Employers' Organisation (NEREO)**

1 VACANCY

## **Appendix B – Council/Executive Appointments**

### **Middlesbrough Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Management Committee**

Councillor Hellaoui appointed

**Middlesbrough Environment City Trust Limited**

Councillor Arundale, Councillor Rostron appointed

**Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency**

Councillor Thompson appointed

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

Councillor McCabe appointed

22/11

**THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Mayor made reference to the following as part of his Annual Report:

Squirrels Club

- Visit to the regions first Squirrels Club, which was a branch of the Scouts/Cubs/Beavers group aimed at children aged 3 to 5 year olds. It was officially launched in Cambridge Baptist Church and there was a long waiting list of children waiting to join. The Mayor praised the volunteers, however, the group needed more volunteers in order to meet the demand for places. The Mayor urged anyone who would be interested in volunteering to assist, to contact the group.

Africa Day

- The Mayor stated that he had attended 'Africa Day' at Middlesbrough College. It was a North East focused event in relation to people of African origin, acknowledging their achievements and raising confidence and awareness. He stated that he had met a number of different people at the event, including a professional boxer, a preacher, a professional writer, several entrepreneurs and John Kabuye, who did incredible things in the Gresham area. The Mayor thanked the African people for their contribution to the town.

The Boro Angels

- The Mayor advised that he had visited the Boro Angels who were based on Borough Road. The group worked on a Saturday night in the town, rescuing people by providing rehydration, assisting people to get taxis, and helping people on the streets.

The Mayor referred to the war in Ukraine and the impact on the people in this country.

The Mayor stated that on a positive note, that there was some good things going on in the town. There was investment in the town and more job vacancies than unemployed people. The opportunities for the town were growing. The Council was developing a leisure zone in Captain Cook square which would attract people to the town. Office buildings were being built and were being occupied. Social housing was being created and other housing was being built.

The Mayoral Development Corporation

The Mayor stated that the launch of the Mayoral Development Corporation had been announced in conjunction with the Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayor, Ben Houchen. Middlesbrough would be able to tap in to any investment and funding realised through the Development Corporation and the Government.

The Mayor referred to the global down turn in people's finances and he stated that this would get worse in October and in his view the Government should impose a windfall tax on the rich companies and distribute to those who needed it most.

The Mayor stated that if anybody was struggling, they should get in touch with their councillor or the Council itself as nobody should go hungry.

The Chair invited members to comment on the Mayor's report.

Councillor M Storey referred to the Mayor's comments on the number of job vacancies in the town. He stated that although there appeared to be a large number of vacancies, many of them were so poorly paid or on zero hours contracts, many people had to do three jobs to achieve a decent income. The town needed good quality, well paid, unionised jobs.

Councillor Storey acknowledged that there was investment in the town. In terms of the Mayor's Development Corporation, the Council needed to look at how the Council interacted with the corporation, what the authority could gain from it and what benefits were available to the Council. The Council had already secured land in Middlehaven and properties around the town, built on Centre Square and he queried with regard to the impact of the Development Corporation on the Council's future plans. He queried with regard to why a Mayoral Development Corporation was needed, at this point in time. Councillor Storey stated that Middlesbrough Council already had an excellent record of initiating and delivering on projects such as Northern School of Arts, the Dock Bridge, Boho X, Centre Square and Middlesbrough Railway Station. He stated that many of these projects had been or were currently being delivered, in collaboration with TVCA and Middlesbrough Council.

In terms of the Mayor's comments on the windfall tax, Councillor Storey stated that this was something that should have been imposed some time ago.

Councillor Storey stated that he was pleased that the Mayor was talking about poverty and hunger. He stated that many people in the town were going hungry but foodbanks and soup kitchens should not need to exist. Councillor Storey stated that poverty and hunger was not acceptable in this day and age.

The Mayor stated that it was fantastic that there was lots of jobs and more vacancies than unemployed people. Foodbanks were not a new thing. Poverty had always existed. He stated that foodbanks should be retained. Middlesbrough was making good progress in terms of investment and that was why they needed to work with the Mayoral Development Corporation. It was an exciting opportunity which involved a Government directive. He stated that the town would keep stocking the foodbanks.

Councillor McTigue queried whether personal attacks were allowed to be made on members. The Monitoring Officer clarified that personal comments were not allowed to be made.

Councillor McTigue commented on the number of people that had contributed towards the people of Ukraine.

Councillor Branson stated that foodbanks should not be required although he acknowledged that the people that operated them did a really good job.

The Mayor stated that a large number of people required foodbanks and as politicians, councillors should strive to reduce demand for them.

Councillor Cooke stated that making the town hunger free was misleading. He stated that he had spent the day with someone who had hardly eaten and the Council needed to do more to help. He commented on the number of Executive Member appointments. Councillor Cooke also referred to the comments on investment in the town but he queried with regard to when the Council's Local Plan would be brought forward.

The Mayor stated that nobody in the town needed to go hungry. There was a telephone number that people could ring to obtain a food parcel. In terms of the cost of the Executive, the Mayor stated that since 2019, the Executive had cost less.

In terms of the Council's Local Plan, the Mayor confirmed that the delivery of the Local Plan was back on track.

Councillor J Walker stated that she was concerned that the Mayor had misconstrued what was said about the operation of foodbanks. What was meant by the comments was that members wanted a better and fairer society where people did not have to rely on foodbanks.



People, including those people who were working, were needing to use foodbanks more, because of the cost of living and the current economic climate.

Councillor Higgins stated that members did not want to get rid of foodbanks, they wanted the Government to do more so that people did not have to rely on them.

The Mayor thanked members for clarifying that they were not proposing to close foodbanks.

**ORDERED** that the Annual Report of the Mayor be noted.

22/12

### **MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES 2022 - 2023**

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to request that Council consider the recommendation proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration outlined in paragraph's 27 of Appendix 1, in respect of Members Allowances, and adopt the proposed Members Scheme of Allowances for 2022/23 (Appendix 1).

The Director of Legal and Governance Services advised that the Council were required under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to publish a Members Scheme of Allowances on an annual basis and to have due regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members Remuneration.

The Independent Panel were informed that an annual review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances was required for the municipal year 2022-2023. The annual review was a full and robust process that encompassed the amount of allowances paid and the mechanisms by which they were assigned.

All elected members had been invited to put written representations to the Panel. Two representations were received i.e. Group Leaders allowances should be paid to all group leaders and whether the role of Chair of Corporate Parenting Board should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance.

Those representations were considered as part of the Panel's deliberations and no changes were recommended at this time.

The Panel were keen to stress that in their deliberations they had carefully reviewed all the relevant information; respectfully considered all representations made to them; had been sensitive to wider economic factors and had acted independently of all other considerations.

The Panel recommended that the Scheme of Allowances should remain frozen and not reflect staff inflationary pay awards as agreed by Council in 2021.

A copy of the proposed Scheme of Allowances for 2022/23 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** that:

1. The Scheme of Allowances should remain frozen and not reflect staff inflationary pay awards as agreed by Council in 2021.
2. Council adopt the proposed Members Scheme of Allowances for 2022/23 (Appendix 2).

22/13

### **UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Chair advised that a number of queries had been received regarding the content of the report in relation to the Update to the Constitution.

The Chair suggested that the report be referred back to the Constitution and Members Development Committee for further discussion.

Following a vote, it was:

**ORDERED** that the report in relation to the Update to the Constitution be referred back to the Constitution and Members Development Committee for further discussion.

22/14

#### **ADOPTION OF THE STANTON & THORNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2021-2036**

The Executive Member for Regeneration and the Director for Regeneration and Culture submitted a report, the purpose of which was to seek the adoption of the Stainton & Thornton Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, and relevant Council procedures.

The Executive Member for Regeneration advised that the Stainton & Thornton Neighbourhood Plan had been subject to a referendum, with the majority of those eligible to vote within the parished area of Stainton & Thornton, voting in favour (with 96.4% in favour) of its adoption. As a result of the successful outcome of the referendum, the Council was required to adopt the Plan, otherwise the Secretary of State could be asked to intervene.

Once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the Council's Policy Framework, and be part of the Statutory Development Plan. The Plan could then be used in the determination of future planning applications within the designated Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Area.

Following a vote, it was:

**ORDERED** that the Stainton & Thornton Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036 be adopted.

22/15

#### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO TEESSIDE PENSION BOARD'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to seek approval to changes to the Teesside Pension Board's Terms of Reference to allow greater flexibility in the appointment of new Members.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance advised that from 1 April 2015 every Local Government Pension Scheme administering authority had to set up a Pension Board, whose role is to assist each administering authority in carrying out its duty to run their Pension Fund.

Pension Boards were not decision-making bodies, but instead performed more of a scrutiny-type role. They were in addition to, not instead of, Pension Fund Committees who typically continued to make all the decisions relating to the investment governance and administration of the Pension Fund.

Each Pension Board had to be set up with an equal number of employer and scheme member representatives, and administering authorities had to decide how many members would be on their Pension Board and how they would be recruited.

The Teesside Pension Board was established to have six members – three employer representatives and three scheme member representatives, further detailed as follows:

##### Scheme employer representatives

Two employer representatives appointed from the separate Councils of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees.

One employer representative chosen from all of the other scheme employers of the Teesside Pension Fund.

##### Scheme member representatives

Two scheme member representatives appointed from the recognised trade unions representing employees who are scheme members of the Fund.

One scheme member representative appointed from the pensioner members of the Fund.

25 May 2022

Recent attempts to fill Board vacancies had mixed results. A pensioner representative was successfully appointed following a selection process after four applicants responded to an article placed in the newsletter sent to the Fund's pensioners. However despite emails to all relevant employers, followed by a further more targeted email to all the larger employers in that group, no volunteer had come forward to take up the "other scheme employers" place on the Board and a vacancy remained.

To avoid a situation where a Board place remained vacant for a long time, the Teesside Pension Board discussed and agreed a proposal to amend the Board's Terms of Reference to provide additional flexibility in appointment situations where a vacancy had proved difficult to fill. Any amendment to the Teesside Pension Board's current Terms of Reference required Council approval.

Council was requested to agree the following change to the existing Terms of Reference:

"In circumstances where no suitable volunteers apply from a particular employer or membership group and a Board vacancy remains, the selection panel is able to appoint another suitable individual to that vacancy from outside that particular membership group, always ensuring that only scheme member representatives are appointed to a scheme member vacancy and only scheme employer representatives are appointed to a scheme employer vacancy."

Following a vote, it was:

**ORDERED** that the proposed change, as outlined above, to the Teesside Pension Board's Terms of Reference to allow greater flexibility in the appointment of new Members, be approved.