

<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Member for Finance and Governance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Urgent:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable

### **Executive summary**

To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels because of vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations from Committees.

### **Purpose**

1. To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees/scrutiny panels/outside bodies, following resignations and vacancies that remained, following the Annual Council meeting.

### **Background and relevant information**

2. Following resignations from Committees and places on Committees and Outside Bodies that were not taken up at the Annual Council meeting, several vacancies exist. Council is required to consider and approve nominations for appointment to the vacancies.

## What decision(s) are being recommended?

### 3. That the Council:

Subject to receipt of nominations to the following vacancies, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors and fills the following vacancies:

#### **Committee Vacancies**

##### **Overview and Scrutiny Board**

1 vacancy – (open to Independent councillor)

##### **Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

2 vacancies (Labour)

##### **Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**1 nomination: Councillor P Storey**

##### **Corporate Parenting Board**

1 vacancy – open to all Councillors

##### **Licensing Committee**

1 vacancy (Labour)

**1 nomination: Councillor P Storey**

##### **Live Well Board**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

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#### **Outside Bodies Vacancies**

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

1 vacancy (Labour)

##### **Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**1 nomination: Councillor P Storey**

##### **Nunthorpe and Marton Playing Fields Association**

1 vacancy (usually open to Ward Councillors in Marton or Nunthorpe)

**1 nomination: Councillor Smiles**

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## Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

4. Council is required to appoint to any vacant places on Committees or Outside Bodies to ensure that all meetings will be quorate.

## **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

5. Do Nothing: This option could result in meetings becoming inquorate and could result in the decision-making process being delayed.

## **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

6. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council periodically reviews the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.
7. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
8. The Council is under a duty to:
  - (a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.
  - (b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.

### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

9. Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement. By ensuring that meetings are quorate then the Council is ensuring that good governance is in place and in line with the requirements of the Council's constitution so this would have a positive impact on this risk.

If the Council doesn't respond effectively and efficiently to legislative changes it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities. The Council has a duty to ensure that the membership of the committees and sub committees are covered and is required to appoint to any vacant places to ensure that all meetings remain quorate. This will have a positive impact on this risk as the Council is fulfilling its duties.

### ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

10. No protected groups are affected by the decision.

### ***Financial***

11. There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

**Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Add Members to Committees/Outside Bodies	Democratic Services Officers	30 October 2023

**Appendices**

1	
2	
3	

**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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