

## ***Urgency Committee***

**3 August 2007**

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

### ***Appointments and Changes to Membership***

#### **Summary**

1. This report seeks approval for changes to the Conservative Group's membership of committees, working groups and outside bodies following the death of Councillor Bennett, and to appoint a vice chair of the Yor OK Board and an additional representative on the York Central Steering Board. It also seeks approval to appoint an Interim Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.
2. The matter is being dealt with at an Urgency Committee to ensure that the Conservative Group can fill its seats on committees, working groups and outside bodies as soon as possible, and as a Returning Officer needs to be appointed, following the retirement of the Chief Executive, prior to a by election being held in Heworth Without Ward.

#### **Background**

3. The death of Councillor Bennett on 14 July 2007 left a number of vacancies for the Conservative Group on committees, working groups and outside bodies, which need to be filled.
4. The appointments approved at Council on 28 June 2007 did not include a vice chair for the Yor OK Board, which should be one of the two City of York Council members of the Board. Also the York Central Steering Board has recently agreed to increase the number of places offered to City of York Council from one to two, to allow representatives from both of the largest political groups to attend and thereby reflect the new political composition of the Council. Both of these appointments can be picked up at the same time as making the other changes referred to above.
5. Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 states that a district council shall appoint an officer of the council to be registration officer for any constituency within the district and Section 35 states that an officer of the council shall be appointed returning officer for the election of councillors for the district and for the election of councillors of parishes within the district. In accordance with the Act members are recommended to appoint Simon Wiles as Interim Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for the City of York until the appointment of the new Chief Executive takes effect.

## **Consultation**

6. Consultation has been undertaken with the appropriate political groups to ascertain their nominees for the vacant places.

## **Options**

7. Members can approve the proposed appointments set out in Annex 1 of the report, amend them or reject them.

## **Analysis**

8. Approval of the proposed appointments set out in Annex 1 would allow the Conservative Group to fill the vacant places on committees, working groups and outside bodies now, rather than waiting until the next Council meeting on 4 October 2007, and would also allow the appointment of the vice chair of the Yor OK Board and an additional representative on the York Central Steering Board to be dealt with without a further delay.

## **Corporate Priorities**

9. Dealing with the appointments in a timely and efficient manner would contribute to the corporate priorities relating to improving the Council's organisational effectiveness.

## **Implications**

10. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, information technology, property or other implications.

## **Risk Management**

11. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## **Recommendations**

12. Members are asked to consider:
  - (i) That the changes to the membership of committees, working groups and outside bodies set out in Annex 1 of the report be approved.

Reason: To fill vacant positions on committees, working groups and outside bodies.

- (ii) That Simon Wiles be appointed as Interim Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for the City of York until the appointment of the new Chief Executive takes effect.

Reason: In accordance with Sections 8 & 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

*Author's name*

*Dawn Steel*

*Democracy & Member*

*Support Manager*

*01904 551030*

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

*Suzan Hemingway*

*Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services*

Report Approved

Date *23/7/07*

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *None*

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes**

Annex 1 – proposed changes to membership of committees, working groups and outside bodies.