

**Bolsover District Council**

**Council**

**10 September 2014**

**Update on Governance Issues: South Normanton By-Election, Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies and Request for Dispensations**

**Report of the Governance Manager**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To advise of the outcome of a recent by-election.
- To appoint members to committees and outside bodies.
- To request a dispensation from attending meetings for two councillors.

**1 Report Details**

- 1.1 Following the death of former Councillor Terry Cook a by-election was held in South Normanton East on 14 August 2014. Tracey Cannon of the Labour Party won the contest and was elected to the Council with 293 votes to Robert Salisbury's (Conservative Party) 120 votes.
- 1.2 Councillor Cannon's election means that the political balance is as it was before the late Councillor Cook's death. The Labour Group has 32 seats, District Residents Group three and Independent Group two.
- 1.3 The result means there are no changes to the current number of seats each Group has on the Council's committees. There is currently one vacancy on the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee where Councillor Cook was a member. Council may decide to appoint Councillor Cannon to this vacancy.
- 1.4 In addition, a verbal request has been received from the Labour Group for two of their councillors to be granted dispensations from attending meetings on ill health grounds. Councillors Brian Hendry and Tom Rodda have not attended meetings of the Council since 28 April and 29 May respectively.
- 1.5 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a councillor will cease to be a member of the authority where they have failed for a period of six months, beginning with their last attendance, to attend a meeting of the Council unless their absence was approved by the authority.
- 1.6 Councillors Hendry and Rodda are both members of the Safe and Inclusive Scrutiny Committee and will remain so until the next Annual Meeting or until Council decides otherwise.

- 1.7 Finally the Council has received a request from Sheffield City Region to appoint one member to their Audit Committee. Following informal consultation with members, Councillor K Reid was appointed by officer delegated decision to enable this to be reported at the same time as other Councils' appointments on 26 August. Council is now asked to formally ratify this appointment.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 To ensure the Council operates within a framework of good governance.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 None.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 Implications**

None.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 That Council notes the result of the South Normanton East By-election on 14 August 2014.
- 6.2 That, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council grants dispensations from attending meetings for Councillors B Hendry and T Rodda until 11 May 2014.
- 6.3 That Council decides on any changes to its membership of committees and advisory groups as a result of the above.
- 6.4 That Council formally appoints Councillor K Reid to the Sheffield City Region Audit Committee, as the Council's representative.

## **7 Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	South Normanton East Clowne North Bolsover North

<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	None
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**8 Document Information**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
None	
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
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Report Reference –