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**REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES  
DURHAM VALUATION TRIBUNAL**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor John Williams, Leader**

**Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the nomination of Members to serve on the Durham Valuation Tribunal from 1st April, 2009..

**Summary**

2. This Council currently appoints three Members to the Durham Valuation Tribunal. The terms of office of those appointments are due to expire on 31st March, 2009, and the Valuation Tribunal Service has requested that this Council considers making further nominations to serve on the Tribunal, from 1st April, 2009.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that consideration be given to this Council's nominations to serve on the Durham Valuation Tribunal from 1st April, 2009, the appointments of which will transfer to the Valuation Tribunal for England from 1st October, 2009.

**Reasons**

4. The recommendation is supported to ensure that this Council nominates Members to serve on the Durham Valuation Service

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Corporate Services**

**Background Papers**

E-mail from the Durham Valuation Tribunal Service.

Lynne Wood : Extension 2287

S17 Crime and Disorder	The nominations to the Tribunal Service do not have any direct implications on crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	The nominations to the Tribunal Service do not have any direct implications on the Health and Well Being of the people of the Borough.
Sustainability	There are no direct implications on sustainability.
Diversity	There are no direct implications on diversity.
Wards Affected	The appointments will allow appeals to be considered locally.
Groups Affected	Those residents who wish to appeal against non-domestic rating, Council Tax valuations, Council Tax liability, completion notices, drainage assessments and penalties for failure to provide requested information.
Budget and Policy Framework	The report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report does not contribute directly to the delivery of the objectives of the community strategy.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. This Council currently nominates three Members to serve on the Durham Valuation Tribunal, the terms of office of which, are due to expire on 31st March, 2009. The regulations governing Valuation Tribunals stipulates that only one third of the Members appointed by any Council can be Councillors. This Council's current members are Councillor Nutt, Mr. R. Bennett and Mr. E. Wilson.
6. The terms of office for appointments to the Tribunal service are usually six years, however, a single Valuation Tribunal for England (VTE) has been established and will come into force on 1st October, 2009. The Members of all the Valuation Tribunals, once appointed, will transfer to the new VTE on 1st October, 2009.
7. The Durham Valuation Tribunal have indicated that new members are likely to refused as they currently have too many tribunal members for their current business needs and their aim is, as far as possible, to retain the existing fully trained members and lose them when they reach the statutory age limit of 72 years of age.
8. From 1st October, 2009, future tribunal appointments will be carried out by a Judicial Appointment Committee in response to national newspaper advertisements and this Council will no longer be involved in nominating Members.

### Outcome of Consultation

9. No formal consultation has been undertaken on the contents of this report.