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**NORTHERN GRID FOR LEARNING**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Cyndi Hughes,  
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of People**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek retrospective approval for an indemnity for Assistant Director Transformation to serve as a member of the Northern Grid for Learning (NGFL) board.

**Summary**

2. NGFL provides broadband and associated services to all Darlington schools. Each of the seven council areas served by NGFL is entitled to appoint a director. With the Head of Education Services leaving the Council and the post subsequently being deleted, the Assistant Director – Transformation (within the Resources Group) has been asked to take up the role of director of NGFL.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members indemnify the Assistant Director Transformation as set out in paragraph 9.

**Reasons**

4. The recommendations are supported to ensure the Assistant Director has an indemnity for his involvement in the company.

**Murray Rose  
Director of People**

**Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no health and well-being issues.
Carbon Impact	There are no sustainability issues.
Diversity	There are no diversity issues.
Wards Affected	This report affects all wards equally.
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any particular group.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There are no issues adversely affecting the Community Strategy.
Efficiency	This does not impact on efficiency.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. NGFL was incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003. Its objectives are ‘the advancement of education by any means relating to the effective use of information and communication technologies for the benefit of the public’. The company currently provides broadband and related services to schools in seven north east council areas – the five Tees Valley authorities (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton) together with North and South Tyneside.
6. All of Darlington schools (including academies) currently take the service. A new contract is currently being negotiated by NGFL and a new telecoms provider will be in place by 1 August 2012 and Darlington schools are currently assessing the new offer.
7. There are seven directors of the company with each of the councils entitled to nominate one. With the Head of Education Services leaving the Council and the post subsequently being deleted, the Assistant Director – Transformation (within the Resources Group) has been asked to take up the role of director of NGFL.
8. The Assistant Director was appointed to the Board of NGFL on 14 November 2011 to ensure the Council was able to participate in the business of NGFL. When officers are appointed to the role of Company Director, it is on the understanding that they are indemnified in their role.
9. The proposed terms of the indemnity to be given to directors are that it would cover any losses attaching to the director in connection with any default or breach of duty in their capacity as a director of the Company or any of its subsidiaries as a result of the transaction.

### Outcome of Consultation

10. No consultation was undertaken.