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**REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2006/07  
NORTH EAST STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR ASYLUM AND REFUGEE  
SUPPORT (NESPARS) AND NORTH EAST CONTRACTING CONSORTIUM FOR  
ASYLUM SUPPORT (NECCAS)**

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

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

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the appointment of members to the North East Strategic Partnership for Asylum and Refugee Support (NESPARS) and North East Contracting Consortium for Asylum Support (NECCAS).

**Information and Analysis**

2. The Council currently appoints to the North East Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support (NECARS), formerly known as the North East Consortium for Asylum Support Services, and Councillor Dixon is currently the representative on this body.
3. A report was considered and approved by the Consortium Executive on 22nd May, 2006, proposing changes to the structures of NECCAS which would effectively separate the enabling and contracting functions, in the light of their new Target Contract.
4. The enabling role entitled the North East Strategic Partnership for Asylum and Refugee Support (NESPARS), will provide a regional advisory, development and consultation function to member organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors for the co-ordination and provision of advice, support and services for asylum support, unsuccessful asylum seekers and new refugees. This partnership will replace NECARS.
5. In addition to this, it was agreed that the seven contracting local authorities, who now form the contracting consortium, nominate another Member to sit on the North East Contracting Consortium for Asylum Support (NECCAS). The consortium will ensure a seamless transition, in particular, on the delivery of the Target contract.

## **Legal Implications**

6. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

7. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

## **Council Policy Framework**

8. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

## **Recommendation**

9. It is recommend that :-
  - (a) Councillor Dixon be nominated to represent this Council on the North East Strategic Partnership for Asylum and Refugee Support (NESPARS) with Councillor Dr. Reynolds as his named substitute.
  - (b) That Councillor Thistlethwaite be nominated as this Council's representative on the North East Contracting Consortium for Asylum Support with Councillor Mrs. Swift as his named substitute.

## **Reasons**

10. To ensure that this Council is represented on the two bodies.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

## **Background Papers**

Report to the Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support dated 22nd May, 2006.

Lynne Wood : Extension 2287  
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