

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: APPOINTMENT TO SHOTTS PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 17 October 2006	Ref: CA/PRISON/ LD/MR	

1. Purpose of Report

The report invites the Committee to recommend the appointment of a non-elected member to Shotts Prison Visiting Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Council, in terms of the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 1994, as amended, are responsible for the appointment of members to Barlinnie, Lowmoss and Shotts Prison Visiting Committees.
- 2.2. Procedures for the recruitment and selection of Prison visitors and also the composition of a Prison Visiting Appointments Panel for North Lanarkshire were approved by the Committee, at its meeting on 20 January 1999.
- 2.3. Following intimation of the resignation of two non-elected members from Shotts Prison Visiting Committee, the Committee, at its meeting on 24 August 2005, had agreed (1) that the November issue of the North Lanarkshire News should carry an article publicising the role and importance of Prison Visiting Committees and inviting expressions of interest, from persons interested in being considered for membership of a Prison Visiting Committee, and, also that arrangements be made to issue a News Release on similar terms, and (2) that the Prison Visiting Appointments Panel comprise the Convener and Vice-Convener of the General Purposes Committee, Councillors McElroy and the Chair of the Prison Visiting Committee in which there were current vacancies.

3. Current Position

- 3.1. As a result of the News Release, two expressions of interest had been received. The two candidates each completed an application form and were subsequently given a tour of Shotts Prison by the Chair of Shotts Prison Visiting Committee.
- 3.2. Following the tour of the prison, one of the candidates withdrew her application on the grounds that she would not be able to meet the time commitment required to carry out the duties of a prison visitor.
- 3.3. The remaining candidate Mr. Frank Dunsmore, was interviewed by the Prison Visiting Appointments Panel on 13 October 2006. Following the interview, the Panel agreed that it be recommended to the Council that Mr. Dunsmore be appointed as a non-elected member to Shotts Prison Visiting Committee, subject to screening by Disclosure Scotland.

- 3.4. Arrangements are in hand to issue a further News Release in the local press inviting expressions of interest from persons interested in being considered for membership of a Prison Visiting Committee.

4. **Recommendations**

- 4.1. It is recommended that the Committee approve the appointment of Mr. Frank Dunsmore as a non-elected member of Shotts Prison Visiting Committee and recommend accordingly to the Council, and
- 4.2. that it be noted that arrangements were in hand for the issue of a News Release in the local press, inviting expressions of interest from persons interested in joining a Prison Visiting Committee.


Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Lesley Deverick, Central Services Division on extension 2228.