

10 Lea Rigg
West Rainton
Houghton-le-Spring
DH4 6SR
11th September 2017

Dear

Application to be Co-Elected on to West Rainton Parish Council

I have been actively involved in business in the North East for many years and I am currently a Director of a Marketing Agency, based at the Evolve Centre in Houghton-le-Spring.

We moved into the village just over 2 years ago and have settled well into village life. Prior to this we lived in Durham City for over 25 years. As our daughters become more independent I can now hopefully give something back to the community in some way shape or form.

My experience stretches back for many years and is quite varied. I first started my working life as an apprentice for one of the largest construction firms in the North East based at Hetton-le-Hole, GM Pearson. From there I have progressed to work for multi-national and blue chip companies. My last role in the corporate sector was as Business Development Director for Europe. This involved managing a team of 10 people with 20 indirect reports. In this role I was responsible for a budget of \$30M and two sites, one in the UK and another in Finland.

I was fortunate in this role to have the opportunity to travel widely throughout Europe and also to the USA and Canada.

After leaving the corporate sector in 2012 I joined forces with my wife and together we grew our marketing agency, Virtuoso Digital Marketing Ltd., to employ 10 people based in Durham. I then oversaw a merger in 2015, with another agency, to create a larger business based on the quayside in Newcastle. Here we employed 25 people in various roles from creative, coding to marketers and two apprentices and had clients including Toyota, Zytronic, and Barclays Premier League.

In the last two years my wife and I have scaled down our involvement and we now provide consultancy to firms requiring sales and marketing advice. We are both directors in our company, Achieve Digital Marketing Ltd.,

I believe that my experience and skill set would be well suited to helping on the council, and I trust that my application is looked upon favourably.

Yours sincerely

Gary Storey