

Body: Council

Date: 20 July 2016

Subject: Standards – Appointment of Independent Persons

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Ward(s): All

Purpose: To consider the appointment of 2 Independent Persons to support the Council's standards regime as recommended by the Selection Panel.

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Recommendations:

- (1) That the Selection Panel's chosen candidates be appointed as Independent persons for an initial period of one year.**
- (2) That the Council's Monitoring Officer is granted delegated authority to extend the term of office for up to a total of 4 years.**
- (3) That the remuneration of the independent persons appointed by the Council be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.**
- (4) That the appreciation of the Council be recorded for the valuable contribution Mr T Elliott has made to the work of standards across the authority during his 8 years of service.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Council at its meeting on 9 May 2012 agreed revisions to the Authority's standards regime with associated committee and decision making arrangements to ensure compliance with a new ethical framework under the Localism Act 2011. At its meeting on 18 July 2012 the Council finalised its arrangements under the Act including the appointment of Independent Persons for a maximum 4 year period.
- 1.2 The four year appointment term of the Council's current independent persons, Mr T Elliott and Mr A Gales, ends in July this year and Annual Council at its meeting on 11 May 2016 agreed their re-appointment until the conclusion of the current appointment process.

2.0 Process of Appointment

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the authority to appoint at least one

independent person following advertisement of the position and the receipt of applications.

2.2 The key requirements for the appointment of independent persons are:

- Appointments must be approved by a majority of the full Council
- Applicants cannot have been a member or co-opted member or officer of the authority within the last 5 years or a relative or close friend of a member or officer.

2.3 The post was advertised on the Council's website and three applications were received. A Selection Panel comprising the Monitoring Officer and two members of the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillors Swansborough and Smethers, undertook the interview process on Monday 4 July 2016.

2.4 As a result, Mr Allen Gales and Mr Neal Robinson are the Selection Panel's preferred candidates.

3.0 Consultations

3.1 None specific to this report.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There will be costs associated with the remuneration of the independent persons and any appropriate training required to ensure the chosen candidates can fulfil the role and participate effectively in the work of standards. Currently each independent person is paid a retainer of £1,000. Payments can also be made at a specified daily rate (up to a maximum of 20 days) as and when duties are performed (currently set at £154 per day).

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The appointment of independent persons is required to comply with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Constitution. The independent persons will have an important role in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected members and co-opted members of the Council.

Peter Finnis

Senior Head of Corporate Development and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

- Localism Act 2011