

Standards (Independent Persons) Appointment Panel

A meeting of Standards (Independent Persons) Appointment Panel was held on Thursday, 18th July, 2013.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chairman), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Michael Clark, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Andrew Sherris (vice Cllr Ken Lupton)

Officers: David Bond, Michael Henderson (LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Ken Lupton

SIP 1/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SIP 2/13 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

SIP 3/13 Appointment of Independent Persons

The Panel received a report relating to the previous appointments of the Council's Independent Person, and two reserves.

Members were provided with details of the appointees' original application forms, together with Independent Person's role description, duties and responsibilities, and the selection criteria/eligibility for the appointment.

Members were informed of the work the Independent Person had been involved in and it was noted that he and the two reserves had also attended various Council meetings. All three Independent Persons had received induction briefings and the reserves had attended a six monthly review meeting earlier this year. They had all provided input to the review of the Council's standards arrangements.

The Council's Director of Law and Democracy indicated that he had a positive and effective working relationship with the current Independent Persons.

Members were asked to:

- consider whether further terms of office should be recommended for each of the Independent Persons and reserves. It was noted that only one Independent Person was required statutorily, but it was considered sensible to have at least one reserve to cover the Independent Person's statutory responsibilities in the event that he was unable to act or was otherwise unavailable.

- subject to the above, determine what terms of office should be recommended to Council

- consider and recommend to Council the level of allowance the Independent Person(s) should receive.

The Panel discussed the matter and agreed a number of recommendations.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- 1. the Terms of Office of the Independent Person and two reserve Independent Persons should be extended for a period expiring two months after the next local government elections, in May 2015.**
- 2. the remuneration of the Independent Persons should remain at its present level (i.e equivalent to a co-optees allowance of £650 pa, together with travel and subsistence costs at member rates)**