

10. RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS FOR STANDARDS MATTERS FROM 1 MAY 2016

REPORT OF: SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision: N/A
Report to: Council
27 January 2016

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the recommendations for a recruitment process for two Independent Persons for Standards Matters for a four year term from 1 May 2016.

Summary

2. Council appoints two Independent Persons for Standards Matters. The terms of office for the current Independent Persons will expire in April 2016 and these vacancies will be advertised and applicants will be interviewed by an Appointments Panel. The Panel will then make recommendations to Council for appointments.

Recommendations

3. **Council are recommended to:**
 - (i) agree the recruitment process for the Independent Persons;
 - (ii) agree to an Appointments Panel to interview candidates for the Independent Persons for Standards Matters to consist of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Delivery, the Chairman of the Standards Committee and the Solicitor to the Council; and
 - (iii) agree to receive the recommendations of the Appointment Panel at the meeting of Council in March 2016, with a view to appointing Independent Persons for a four year term from 1 May 2016.
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Background

4. The Council has two Independent persons for Standards matters, Sir Roger Sands and Gerard Irwin who were appointed by Council on 27 June 2012. Their terms of office expire on 30 April 2016.
5. The Independent Persons for Standards Matters sit on the Standards Committee, which meets 4 times a year, and also conduct investigations into complaints against Members.

Recruitment Process

6. It is proposed that the Council will follow the previous process when recruiting for Independent persons. This will involve advertising the vacancies in the local press and on the Council's website and social media outlets. This will take place during February 2016 with the interviews of applicants taking place in early March 2016.

7. The applicants will then be interviewed by an Appointments Panel. This will consist of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Delivery, the Chairman of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer for the Standards Candidates. The Appointments Panel will then make their recommendations to Council in March 2016.
8. Once the appointments of the successful applicants have been confirmed by Council, the two new Independent persons will serve a term of four years due to expire in April 2020.

Policy Context

9. The Council has decided to appoint two Independent persons for Standards matters in accordance with section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011.

Financial Implications

10. There will be some costs associated with the recruitment process but these will be minimal and within budget.

Risk Management Implications

11. There are no risk management implications.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

12. The recruitment for new Independent persons in 2016 will be a fair and transparent process open to all members of the public.

Background Papers

None.