

15. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS FOR STANDARDS MATTERS AND THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

REPORT OF: SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL & MONITORING OFFICER
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision: No
Date of meeting: Council
23 March 2016

Purpose Of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask Council to make appointments of Independent Persons for Standards Matters and to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Recommendations

2. **Council is recommended to appoint Anthony Cox and Dr David Horne as Independent Persons for Standards Matters, and to appoint Michael Green to the Independent Remuneration Panel for terms of 4 years from 1 May 2016.**
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Background

3. The Council decided in 2012 to appoint two Independent persons for Standards matters in accordance with section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011. The terms of office for the current Independent persons, Gerard Irwin and Sir Roger Sands, will expire on 30 April 2016.
4. One vacancy exists on the three member Independent Remuneration Panel as the term of office for Anthony Cox will expire on 30 April 2016.
5. On 27 January 2016, Council agreed a recruitment process to take place during February 2016 and for two Appointments Panels to interview prospective candidates. The vacancies were advertised in local newspapers and on the Council's website and social media pages.

Recruitment Process – Independent Persons for Standards Matters

6. The Appointment Panel for Independent Persons for Standards Matters comprised of Councillors Ash-Edwards, John Belsey and the Solicitor to the Council who interviewed 4 candidates on 4 March 2016. The Panel were impressed by the high quality and experience of the applicants and recommend the following candidates:

Name	Term ends	Committee or Panel
Anthony Cox	April 2020	Independent Person for Standards Matters
Dr David Horne	April 2020	Independent Person for Standards Matters

7. Anthony Cox has served for several years on the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel and currently serves as the Chairman of the Panel. He has previously worked for IBM, in a variety of sales, consultancy & business management roles. He is also a volunteer advisor as Citizens Advice in Crawley, a Churchwarden and in September 2015 became the part-time Project Manager of the East Grinstead Foodbank.
8. Dr David Horne is a chartered public finance accountant and procurement specialist with an interest in professional standards and codes of conduct. He has been a member of his professional body's Regulatory Committee since 2010 and has been involved with Local Government Councillor Standards since 2012. After nearly 15 years working at director level in national and local policing organisations, he is now working part-time in a finance practice which he combines with non-executive and charity roles. He works periodically in Mid Sussex but lives in Wealden.

Recruitment Process – Independent Person for Independent Remuneration Panel

9. The Appointment Panel for the vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel consisted of Councillors Wall and Ash-Edwards who interviewed the only applicant on 3 March 2016. Despite being the only candidate, the Appointments Panel were confident that Michael Green would be a valued addition to the Independent Remuneration Panel and therefore recommend his appointment to Council.
10. Michael Green took early retirement in 2012 having worked in various roles, including senior operations manager, for various companies including Securicor Security Services, DHL Express and TNT Express. He is also a committee member and Treasurer of Triathlon England Southeast and Southcentral and a performance coach for Mid Sussex Marlins swimming club.
11. The new appointee will join the existing independent persons, Neil Gershon and John Rowe, who were appointed by Council on 22 July 2015 and whose terms of office expire in April 2019.

Policy Context

12. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 No.1280 require local authorities to establish and maintain an independent remuneration panel. The 2001 Regulations do not specify how a local authority may go about finding members of its remuneration panel.

Financial Implications

13. There were minimal costs incurred for the recruitment process and these were within budget. A modest annual allowance is paid to the independent persons.

Risk Management Implications

14. There are no risk management implications.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

15. The recruitment for the new panel members in 2016 was conducted in a fair and transparent way and was open to all members of the public.

Background Papers

None.