



COUNCIL – 11TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

REPORT BY: INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint an independent member to the Standards Committee and to consider a recommendation for the appointment of a reserve.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution, in accordance with statute, establishes a Standards Committee with a majority of independent members. This appointment is required to comply with the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 2000.

3. THE APPOINTMENTS PROCESS

- 3.1 On the 21st April 2013 the term of office of one of the independent Members and Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr Len Davies, expired. Council will no doubt recollect thanking Mr Davies at the last Council meeting for his invaluable service on the Standards Committee.
- 3.2 Under the current regulations it is not permissible to further extend his term of office and therefore the Council undertook the process prescribed by the National Assembly in order to appoint a replacement independent Member.
- 3.3 A Panel was established to consider all the applications and to make a recommendation to the Council. In accordance with the regulations the Panel comprised two elected members, a community council member and a "lay panel member" who in this case was Professor Griffiths, the current Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, with advice from the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer.
- 3.4 Following a public advertisement of the vacancy in the local press and on the Council's website 14 applications were received one of which was received after the closing date. The Panel considered the applications from individuals who met the criteria published by the Authority and prepared a shortlist for interview. Of the 5 applicants who were shortlisted, 4 applicants confirmed their availability and attended for interview on 24th May 2013.
- 3.5 The panel considered following interview that two of the candidates could be considered for appointment and after discussion agreed the following:-

- (a) that Mr Vincent Brickley be recommended for appointment as independent member of the Standards Committee for a period of 4 years from 12th June 2013.
- (b) that the Council agrees to setting up a reserve list of independent members and that Mr David Lewis be invited to remain on that reserve list for a period of six months from 12th June 2013.

3.6 While the law provides that the appointment to the Standards Committee is made by the Authority, the regulations put great emphasis on the Panel and it would therefore be inappropriate for the Authority to do other than accept the recommendation of the Panel as to the appointment. The Authority is free to accept or reject the second recommendation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There is existing provision for allowances for independent members and therefore there are no additional financial implications for the Authority.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council undertook the process prescribed by the National Assembly in order to appoint a replacement independent Member and all equalities implications were considered as part of this process.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The preferred candidates will be given induction training.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 This report reflects the deliberations of the statutory Panel and therefore there has been no formal consultation on the contents of this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) that the said Mr Vincent Brickley be appointed for a period of 4 years from 12th June 2013 as independent member of the Standards Committee;
- (b) that the Council agrees to establishing a reserve list of independent members and that the said David Lewis be invited to remain on that list for a period of six months from 12th June 2013.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 In order to comply with statutory requirements about the establishment of a Standards Committee and to give effect to the recommendations of the Panel set up under National Assembly Regulations.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000 and regulations made under the Act. This is a Council function.

Author: Gail Williams, Monitoring Officer (Interim)/Principal Solicitor
For Information: Nigel Barnett, Acting Chief Executive
Councillor K Reynolds, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member For Corporate Services
Councillor C Forehead, Cabinet Member For HR & Governance

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Background Papers: None