

Subject:	Appointment of Independent Persons to Audit and Standards Committee		
Date of Meeting:	25th October 2012		
Report of:	Interim Lead Chief Executive's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Elizabeth Culbert	Tel: 29-1515
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's approval for the appointment of two new Independent Persons to the Audit and Standards Committee, in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointments of David Horne and Lel Meleyal as Independent Persons and co-opted Members of the Audit and Standards Committee with immediate effect.
- 2.2 That Council notes the appointments are made for a period of 4 years, with the possibility of an extension for a further 4 years by decision of the Monitoring Officer after consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**Requirement for Independent Persons**

- 3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views are to be sought in relation to Member Code of Conduct issues. This is a different role from the previous role of Independent Member and the legislation specifically requires Councils to recruit at least one new Independent Person to fulfil the role.
- 3.2 The functions of the Independent Persons (IP) are prescribed by the Localism Act:-
- The IP must be consulted, and their views taken into account, before the Council makes a decision on any allegation relating to a breach of the Member Code of Conduct it has decided to investigate;
 - The IP may be consulted by the Council in other circumstances related to "standards" issues; e.g. at the point at which a complaint

is received, or more generally regarding ethical issues.

- The IP may be consulted by a member of the authority against whom an allegation has been made.

3.3 In addition to the above ethical standards related roles, it is proposed that the IP will also assist the Audit and Standards Committee in its audit functions, providing independent assurance in relation to the internal and external control environment. This is in line with CIPFA Guidance to Local Authorities in relation to best practice for audit committees.

3.4 It is proposed to appoint two IPs to the Audit and Standards Committee. This will provide resilience should one IP not be available or should there be a conflict if, example, the Monitoring Officer has already consulted, or needs to consult, the IP.

The recruitment process

3.5 In September 2012 the Council advertised the two Independent Person positions and received a high number of responses. Interviews were conducted by a panel comprising elected members, the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Audit.

3.6 Subject to Council approval, David Horne and Lel Meleyal have been appointed to the posts.

David Horne

3.7 David Horne brings an immense amount of experience to the Audit and Standards Committee, having worked at senior level in central government, policing and local government. He is currently the Director of Resources at the National Policing Improvement Agency (a Non Departmental Public Body of the Home Office with 2,200 police officers/staff), where his role includes leading corporate services. He is a Doctor of Philosophy and qualified finance practitioner serving on his Chartered Institute's disciplinary committee.

Lel Meleyal

3.8 Lel Meleyal also comes to the Audit and Standards Committee with a great deal of relevant experience. Until recently she worked as operations manager/regulatory inspector at the General Social Care Council where she worked on regulatory body approval and developing best practice regulation. She currently has roles with two regulatory bodies addressing conduct management. She has also recently completed a doctorate on professional regulation. She is a registered social worker, university tutor on values and ethics and experienced committee and board member across a range of areas.

3.9 Both candidates have accepted the positions subject to Council approval.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 The recruitment process has followed the requirements of the relevant legislation, including coming to full Council for approval.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The remuneration for the positions will be £1000 per annum each funded from existing budgets. The appointments are in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and are made for a period of 4 years.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 15/10/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 These are addressed in the body of the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 15/10/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

2.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

2.

Background Documents

1. None

