

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Annual Council – 11 May 2017

Report Author	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer
Portfolio Holder	<i>Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services</i>
Status	<i>For Decision</i>
Classification:	<i>Unrestricted</i>
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

This report asks Council to reappoint Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the 2017/18 Municipal year.

Recommendation(s):

That Council approves the appointment of Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the 2018 Annual Council Meeting.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	Independent Members of the Standards Committee are entitled to a small Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA). These allowances are included in the approved 2017/18 Budget.
Legal	The Council has established a process for handling complaints through the Standards Committee which involves Independent Members which is compliant with the Localism Act 2011.
Corporate	The continued appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee will enhance public trust and confidence in the operation of the Council's ethical governance arrangements
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p>

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
There are no specific issues related to this decision.		

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	✓
Promoting open communications	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Council agreed on 27 February 2014 to appoint Independent Members to the Standards Committee as part of the process to replace the existing system for Standards.
- 1.2 Two Independent Members were then subsequently appointed being Dr Jonathan Sexton and Mrs Janet Bacon.
- 1.3 Dr Sexton was appointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee and Mrs Bacon was appointed as Vice Chairman.
- 1.4 Council agreed on 12 May 2016 to approve re-appointment of Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon for another year.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The appointments made were for the last year and there is now a need to appoint Independent Persons to the Standards Committee for the coming year.
- 2.2 Independent Members were originally recruited following recommendation from the Standards Appointments Working Party.
- 2.3 Both Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon have indicated their willingness to continue as Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 To appoint Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the 2018 Annual Council meeting.
- 3.2 The Council can choose to not appoint Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members. If this is the decision taken, a recruitment process would be required to recruit suitable persons to act as Independent Members. This would cause a significant delay in handling matters for investigation through the Standards process.

4.0 Decision Making Process

- 4.1 Council is required to confirm the appointment of Independent Members to the Standards to ensure that they have a mandate to be able to perform their functions in that role.

Contact Officer:	Tim Howes – Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer – Chief Executive

Annex List

None	
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Ken Trotter - Interim Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes - Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer