

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 13 JULY 2021

RECRUITMENT OF TWO INDEPENDENT PERSONS

REPORT OF ANTHEA LOWE – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report is intended to provide the Committee with details of the planned recruitment for two independent persons in line with the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Standards Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the proposals for the recruitment of two Independent Persons as set out in this report; and**
2.2 Delegates authority to the Associate Director: Policy & Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee to undertake the necessary recruitment activity.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	The standards framework underpins the ethical arrangements for the Council and, therefore, these proposals contribute to all of the Council's priorities.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	It is anticipated that recruitment will commence once the Committee has confirmed its approval of the proposals with the aim being that roles	

	will be offered to the successful candidates in or around April 2022.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no financial impacts arising from the proposals contained in this report.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Council is legally required to appoint an Independent Person as set out in the Localism Act 2011. The recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life set out that an authority should have two IPs. The proposals contained in this report comply with the legislative requirement and also follow the recommendations from the CSPL. (AL 2/07/2021)
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 In 2019, the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published its report *Ethical Standards in Local Government*. In that report, the CSPL made a number of recommendations, all of which have been considered by this Committee. These recommendations were split into two categories, those that require legislative changes and those that amount to best practice and can be implemented without needing changes to the law.
- 4.2 One of the best practice recommendations that has yet to be implemented in Telford and Wrekin is as follows:-
- Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons*
- 4.3 Since the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has always had access to at least one Independent Person. Although some authorities have chosen to enter into mutual arrangements to share access to Independent Persons, it is recommended that this Council aims to recruit two Independent Persons so that it is self-reliant and able to ensure it always has access to at least two.
- 4.4 Attached at **Appendix 1** is a copy of the proposed information pack to be used during the recruitment.

- 4.5 Members are asked to approve the proposed commencement of the recruitment of two Independent Persons and delegate authority to the Associate Director: Policy & Governance, in consultation with the Chair, to take all steps to secure a positive outcome.
- 4.6 Once recruitment has been concluded, a further report will be presented to the Standards Committee.

5. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Committee for Standards in Public Life report *Ethical Standards in Local Government*

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