

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 31st January 2012

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND OTHER BODIES

1 **Purpose of Report**

To appoint to vacancies on Committees and Panels and make appointments to other bodies.

2. **Recommendations**

The Council is requested to Resolve:

- (a) That the appointment of Cllr P K Mann as Commissioner for Opportunity and skills with effect from 23rd December be noted and that appointments be made to consequential vacancies as follows:

Standards Committee [1 Labour Vacancy]
Health Scrutiny Panel [1 Labour Vacancy]
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel [1 Labour Vacancy]
[Nominations to follow]

- (b) That the individuals listed in Paragraph 5.7 of the report be appointed to the Independent Appeals Panel to hear appeals from parents in respect of school exclusion and admission appeals.
- (c) That appointments be made to vacancies on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) as set out in paragraph 5.11.
- (d) That Councillor Swindlehurst be nominated to the Board of Development Initiative Slough Housing Ltd. (DISH)
- (e) That Councillor P K Mann be appointed to South East Employers

3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

Effective, transparent and equitable democratic and decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

4. **Other Implications**

The recommendations within this report meet legal requirements and the requirements of Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals and the Regulations governing school exclusion appeals in respect of the independence of

panel members. Any financial implications have been reflected within the approved budget. There are no Human Rights Act implications.

Costs relating to training for appeal panellists will be met from the Democratic Services budget. For the purposes of a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check, panellists fall within the volunteers' category and as such no charge has been incurred in completing a check.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 A number of vacancies have arisen on Council Committees and Panels.

Scrutiny Panels and Standards Committee

5.2 The Leader of the Council appointed Councillor P K Mann as Commissioner for Opportunity and Skills in place of Council or Matloob with effect from 23rd December 2011.

5.3 A member of the Executive cannot sit on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or its Panels or the Standards Committee and a vacancy has therefore arisen on the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, Health Panel and Standards Committee as a result of Councillor Mann's appointment to the Cabinet.

5.4 Nominations for these vacancies have been sought from the Leader of the Council and will be reported to the Council.

School Admission and Exclusion Appeals

5.5 The Council at its Annual Meeting on 19th May, 2011 approved the appointment of a number of individuals to serve on the independent appeal panels from parents in respect of school exclusion and admission appeals.

5.6 It is a requirement of the School Admission Appeals Code that Local Authorities must advertise for additional panellists every three years. In accordance with this requirement, an advert was placed in the Slough Express and Slough Observer on 23rd September 2011.

5.7 Interviews were held during week commencing 14th November 2011 for prospective panel members. It is recommended that the following individuals be appointed to the Independent Appeal Panel:

- Mrs S Baig
- Mr D Bryce
- Mrs P Christian
- Miss J Coakley
- Mr H Gahir
- Ms R Mohan
- Mrs T Khan
- Mrs P Prescott
- Ms L Shekiluwa

5.8 In accordance with best practice, a Criminal Record Bureau check has been carried out in relation to all new panellists.

- 5.9 Relevant training regarding the School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code will be provided to panellists.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

- 5.10 The Members of the SACRE are appointed by the Council and a number of vacancies currently exist for appointments to represent religions as follows:

Sikhism (2 Vacancies), Islam (4 vacancies).

- 5.11 The Committee and Chair have worked together to seek nominations to fill these vacancies and an approach has been made through the Slough Muslim Communication Forum. The Council is requested to approve appointments as follows

Sikhism

Hardip Singh Sohal - Governor of Khalsa School
[1 vacancy remains]

Islam

Julie Siddiqi - An-Nisa Slough Muslim Women's Group / Islamic Society of Britain
Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan - Slough Weekend Islamic School (SWIS)
Imam Moulana Saeed Ziaee - Imam, Diamond Road Mosque
Zara Choudhary - KHIDMA (community group/charity)

The nominees represent a good mix of backgrounds, ages and interests and are keen to do what they can to raise awareness and understanding of the different faith groups within the SACRE and schools in general whilst at the same time recognising the diversity within the communities they represent.

Development Initiative Slough Housing LTD (DISH)

- 5.12 DISH was established in the late 1980s in response to the Government's requirement that more homes for rent be built by bodies other than local councils, with rents at economic levels. The Board Members are currently Councillor Anderson, Councillor Haines and the Chief Executive. The Council is asked to approve the nomination of Councillor Swindlehurst as an additional Board Member.

South East Employers

- 5.13 The Council appoints two Members and two deputies to the South East Employers and has agreed that the appointments comprise the Commissioner for Opportunity and Skills and Chair of Employment & Appeals Committee. Councillor Matloob and Bains were appointed by the Council in May 2011. Councillor Matloob has since resigned as he is no longer Commissioner and the Council is requested to resolve that Councillor P K Mann be appointed.

6. Background Papers

Council Constitution

Further details regarding school appeal Panel Members available on request from Democratic Services.

School Admission Appeals Code.