

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 25th September 2014

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

APPOINTMENT OF (STANDARDS) INDEPENDENT PERSON FOR THE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER OF STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to the appointment of a (Standards) Independent Person for the Council for the period 2014 to 2018 and to the appointment to the vacancy that currently exists for a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to resolve

- (a) That Dr Louis Lee be appointed as the (Standards) Independent Person for the Council from 26th September 2014 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2018.
- (b) That Mr Graham Davies be appointed as a co-opted member on the Standards Advisory Committee with effect from 26th September 2014 until the Annual meeting of the Council in 2018.

3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The delivery of the Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities is dependent on good governance arrangements being in place in order that the Council has a transparent and accountable process for effective decision-making. This is underpinned by the Code of Conduct, which forms the bedrock of the conduct regime for Members and aims to ensure that ethical behaviour and governance of the highest order is maintained.

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

The (Standards) Independent Person receives an allowance of £1200 pa and the co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee receive an allowance of £500 pa.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no human rights or other legal implications.

5. Supporting Information

(Standards) Independent Person

5.1 The Localism Act 2011 established a new position of Independent Person for the Council, who must be consulted at various stages of the Standards process. Mr Fred Ashmore has been the Council's Independent Person since 2012, having previously served as a Co-opted Independent Member of the Standards Committee. The transitional arrangements of the Localism Act placed a time limit on Mr Ashmore's period of office as Independent Person and the process to recruit a successor to him was implemented.

5.2 The post was advertised on the Council's website and details circulated to interested individuals and organisations. Shortlisted applicants were interviewed by Group Leaders in September. Following the interviews, Group Leaders recommended the appointment of Dr Louis Lee as Independent Person for a four year term of office.

Co-opted Independent Member – Standards Advisory Committee

5.3 There is currently a vacancy for one of the three independent co-opted members on the Standards Advisory Committee. Following the interviews for the (Standards) Independent Person, Group Leaders recommended that Mr Graham Davies, who had applied for the role, be approached for appointment as a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee as he had a great deal of relevant experience.

6. Appendices

None.