

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

15 May 2017

Minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee Meeting held at the Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Monday 15 May 2017 at 7.47pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors A.K. Azad, J. Barnes, R.K. Bird, R.C. Carroll, K.P. Dixon, S.H. Earl, T. W. Graham and M. Mooney.

AS17/01. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Parish/Town Representative A. Stainsby.

AS17/02. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: That Councillor M. Mooney be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

PART A - STANDARDS REPORTS

AS17/03. **INDEPENDENT PERSONS – RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT**

Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 placed a duty on the Council to appoint one or more independent persons to:

- To give the Council views on any allegations it has decided to investigate, before a decision is reached.
- At the discretion of the Council, to give the Council views on any other allegations.
- At the discretion of a Member, co-opted Member or member of a town or parish council, to give the Member views on any allegations relating to the behaviour of that Member. [s28(7)]

The report of the Monitoring Officer detailed the proposed recruitment process for the appointment of the two Independent Persons. The Council's current Independent Persons in respect of Standards Matters had been recruited for a four year period and their term was due to expire in July 2017. It was noted that the current process worked well and Members agreed that the appointment continue to be for a period of four years as recommended in the report.

It was proposed that an advert for two independent persons be placed on the Council's website inviting applications with a closing date of 30 May 2017. The vacancy would be notified to all councillors and parish and

town councils within the Rother area but would not be available to any employee of the Council or a parish or town councillor, or those who had been so within the last five years.

The report recommended that the Interview Panel comprise of the Monitoring Officer together with two members of the Committee, agreed as Councillors Azad and Barnes, and that interviews be scheduled to take place during the week commencing 12 June 2017.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the proposed arrangements for the recruitment of two Independent Persons for a term of four years be noted;
- 2) an Interview Panel be appointed comprising the Monitoring Officer and Councillors Azad and Barnes; and
- 3) the proposed appointees be recommended to the Committees' next meeting on 26 June for onward recommendation to Council on 10 July 2017.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

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