

By: Director of Law and Governance

To: County Council – 21 June 2007

Subject: Appointment of Independent People to Serve on the Standards Committee and Member Remuneration Panel

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Council is recommended to undertake a new recruitment process for independent people to serve on the Standards Committee and Member Remuneration Panel and, in the meantime, to extend the terms of office of the existing independent members.

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. (1) The terms of office of the three independent people who serve on both the Standards Committee and the Member Remuneration Panel – Mrs Fiona Leathers, Miss Roberta MacCrone and Mr John Ogden – are due to expire on 30 June 2007.

Recruitment Process

2. (1) Selection Committee agreed in January that the same recruitment process should be used as on previous occasions, namely that an independent selection panel be established comprising one person nominated by each of the three political groups to shortlist and interview applicants and submit a recommendation to the Council. The three people nominated to serve on the independent selection panel were:-

Sir Graham Odgers (Chairman)
Ms Jessica d'Souza Watts
Rev Chris Morgan-Jones

(2) The independent member appointments were advertised widely in the Kent press and publicised through various networks but, unfortunately, only five applications were received. As there are a total of six vacancies (recent legislation suggests that the same people should not serve on both the Standards Committee and the Member Remuneration Panel), the independent selection panel, when it met on 29 May, suggested new avenues should be explored and decided to recommend to Council as follows.

Recommendations

3.
 - a) That a new and more wide-ranging recruitment exercise be undertaken with a view to recommending candidates for appointment to Council in September or October;
 - b) That the terms of office of the existing independent members of the Standards Committee and the Member Remuneration Panel be temporarily extended until such time as the Council makes new appointments. (Mrs Leathers, Miss MacCrone and Mr Ogden have all indicated their willingness to continue in office for the time being).

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Background Documents: *None*