

Council Report

Ward(s) affected: n/a

Report of: Director of Finance

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Appointment of independent members of Corporate Governance and Standards Committee (May 2019 - May 2023)

Recommendation

The Council is asked to consider the appointment of Murray Litvak and the re-appointment of Maria Angel MBE as independent members of the Council's Corporate Governance and Standards Committee, as recommended by a selection panel, with effect from May 2019, for a four-year term of office.

Reason for Recommendation:

To comply with Article 10 of the Council's Constitution.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ask the Council to agree to the appointment of two independent members to the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee with effect from May 2019, for a four-year term of office.

2. Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 The manner by which the Council advertised the vacancy for appointment of independent members of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee, and the appointments process, demonstrates the Council's commitment to being open and accountable to our residents.

3. Background

- 3.1 Article 10 of the Constitution provides that the composition of the Council's Corporate Governance and Standards Committee includes three non-voting, co-opted persons who are not councillors or officers of the Council (independent members), whose term of office would be for a four-year period, with serving independent members being eligible for re-appointment. We currently only have

one independent member, namely, Mrs Maria Angel MBE, and her term office will expire in May 2019.

- 3.2 In January 2019, the Democratic Services Manager placed an advertisement on the Council's website inviting applications from the public in respect of the three vacancies. In addition, the details of the appointments were publicised via social media, and we wrote to a number of partners and other organisations drawing their attention to the advertisement and the information pack for candidates on the website.
- 3.3 We received two applications, one from our current independent member Mrs Angel seeking re-appointment, and the other from Mr Murray Litvak.
- 3.4 On the basis that Mrs Angel has served very ably and impartially as an independent member on the Committee (and its predecessor committee) since 2013, officers have no hesitation in commending to the Council her re-appointment as an independent member for a further four-year term. Mrs Angel has updated her CV, which is attached as the "Not for Publication" Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.5 Officers invited Mr Litvak for interview on 6 March 2019 by a panel comprising the Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee (Councillor Richard Billington), the Chief Finance Officer (Claire Morris) and the Deputy Monitoring Officer (Sarah White).
- 3.6 Following the interview, the panel indicated that Mr Litvak was an extremely able and high calibre candidate with a good knowledge of standards and governance issues. Mr Litvak is currently Chairman of the Spelthorne Members Code of Conduct Committee and is also the statutory Independent Person at Runnymede Borough Council. The panel therefore recommend that Mr Litvak be appointed as an independent member of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee. A copy of Mr Litvak's CV in support of his application is attached as the "Not for Publication" Appendix 2 to this report.
- 3.7 This report was also considered by the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee at its meeting held on 28 March 2019. The Committee was very happy to commend the re-appointment of Maria Angel and appointment of Murray Litvak, as co-opted independent members of the Committee for a four-year term of office ending in May 2023.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Co-opted members of committees are entitled to a small co-optees' allowance (currently £344 p.a.) and claim travel and subsistence allowance at the same rate as councillors to cover the cost of attending meetings. This can be contained within existing budgets. There are no other financial implications arising from consideration of this matter.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Although the appointment of co-opted independent members to the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee is not a statutory requirement, the Council has chosen to appoint such independent members as a means of ensuring that we are able to bring an independent, objective perspective to the audit and governance work of this Committee.

6. Human Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no human resource implications arising from consideration of this matter.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Council is invited to consider:

- (a) the re-appointment of Maria Angel; and
- (b) the panel's recommendation to appoint Murray Litvak

as co-opted independent members of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee for a four year term commencing in May 2019.

8. Background Papers

- Advertisement and Information Pack for Candidates

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Mrs Maria Angel's CV in support of her application for re-appointment
Appendix 2: Mr Murray Litvak's CV in support of his application for appointment

NB. Both appendices are exempt from publication under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972