

# Birmingham City Council

## Council Business Management Committee

30 May 2023



**Subject: Independent Members (Standards and Independent Remuneration Panel) Recruitment**

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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

### 1 Executive Summary

1.1 The report seeks to recruit:

- i. 3 Independent Remuneration Panel Members.
- ii. 2 Independent People in accordance with Localism Act 2011 which requires all relevant Local Authorities to recruit at least 1 Independent person.
- iii. 1 Lay member of Standards Committee

### 2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Council Business Management Committee agree to recruit to the following roles:

| <b>Role</b>                           | <b>Reason for recruitment</b>        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 x IRP Citizen Representatives       | Term of Offices expires (31/08/2023) |
| 1 x Appointed IRP Representative      | Resignation                          |
| 2 x Independent People                | Resignation / Additional Member      |
| 1 x Lay member of Standards Committee | Resignation                          |

### **3. Background**

#### **Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)**

- 3.1 Councillors receive allowances to support them in carrying out their work as elected representatives. The amount of the allowance for the various Councillors roles is decided by the City Council taking into account a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 The Panel was established by the City Council at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2001. Current membership consists of:
- Four Citizen Representatives
  - Two appointed panel members
  - Two co-opted panel members, that are former Councillors of the City Council.
- 3.3 In August 2016, CBMC confirmed that the above balance of membership, and that each appointee should be appointed for four years.
- 3.4 Agreement is therefore sought to fill the current vacancies.

#### **Standards Committee**

- 3.5 In accordance with S27 of the Localism Act a relevant authority must:
- i. Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and co-opted members; and
  - ii. When discharging its duty, adopt a voluntary code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the

authority when they are acting in their capacity as members (that is in an official capacity)

3.6 Under section 28(6) of the Act a relevant authority must have in place arrangements:

- i. Under which allegations can be investigated; and
- ii. Under which decisions on allegations can be made

3.7 Birmingham has an established Standards Committee and its current membership consist of:

- 2 elected members from the three largest political groups represented on the Council.
- 6 lay members

3.8 The Independent Person supports the Standards Committee by providing an independent perspective on the Council's ethical framework, as well providing independent advice to elected members.

3.9 To ensure resilience (where for example there is a conflict of interest) it is proposed to appoint a second Independent Person.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 None other than those stated above

#### **5 Financial Implications**

5.1 Payment of allowances due, will be provided for by members allowances allocated budgets.

#### **6 Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

6.1 None.