



Chelmsford City Council

24 May 2023

Appointment of Independent Persons & Parish Representatives to Governance Committee

Report by:

Chair of the Governance Committee

Officer Contact:

Daniel Bird, Democracy Team Manager, daniel.bird@chelmsford.gov.uk, 01245 606523

Purpose

To appoint two new Independent Persons in addition to the re-appointment of the existing Independent Persons as recommended by the Governance Committee together with changes to the Terms of Reference to reflect this. To appoint one parish representative to the committee.

Recommendations

1. Mr Jeremiah and Mr Lamb be appointed as two of the Council's Independent Persons together with the re-appointment of the existing Independent Persons (Mrs Gosling and Mrs Mills)
 2. That the Terms of Reference for Governance Committee be updated to reflect that between two and four Independent Persons can be appointed to the Governance Committee.
 3. That Cllr Peter Jackson (Great Waltham) be re-appointed as a parish representative to the Governance Committee.
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and co-opted members. In achieving this aim the Act requires that the Council appoints at least one Independent Person to undertake duties to support the discharge of these functions.
- 1.2 Additionally, duties within the Employment Committee relating to disciplinary action against Statutory Officers and Directors also require input from at least two Independent Persons.
- 1.3 The appointment of an Independent Person is made by Full Council following interview and recommendation by the Governance Committee.
- 1.4 The Governance Committee sought to recruit an additional Independent Person as a result of the health concerns of one of the Independent Persons.
- 1.5 The Council received six applicants for the role who were interviewed by Governance Committee on 8 March 2023. Governance Committee unanimously decided that two of the candidates, who met the requirements to fulfil the role should be appointed in addition to the existing Independent Persons which will help in inducting and training the new Independent Persons.
- 1.6 The terms of reference for the Governance Committee at paragraph 3.2.3 (c) Governance Committee under “other information” should be amended to “Between two and four Independent persons are to be recommended for appointment by the Governance Committee”.
- 1.7 Only one of the existing parish representatives decided to continue in office and the Governance Committee also considered this at the March meeting. The Committee unanimously recommends their continued appointment as a parish representative. Applications for two further parish representatives will shortly be sought.

List of appendices:

None.

Background papers:

None.

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the report

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: None

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

None relevant