

CORPORATE COMMITTEE 02 DECEMBER 2021

Report title: Appointment of Independent Corporate Committee Co-opted Member

Wards: All

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance: Councillor Andy Wilson

Report Authorised by: Christina Thompson: Director for Finance and Property (Section 151 Officer)

Contact for enquiries: Chloe Morris, Democratic Services Officer, Legal and Governance, 0207 926 1065, cmorris2@lambeth.gov.uk

REPORT SUMMARY

This report concerns the recruitment and appointment of an Independent Non-Executive Corporate Committee Member for the London Borough of Lambeth's Corporate Committee.

The Independent Member will work closely with Corporate Committee on all aspects of the Committee's work in relation to wider ethical and governance issues affecting the Council, providing independent input.

FINANCE SUMMARY

The role of the Independent Member is voluntary. There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee appoint Simon Blakeney to serve as Independent Corporate Committee co-opted Member for a term of 4 years (effective immediately until the May 2025 Corporate Committee meeting)

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 Lambeth Council's Corporate Committee has previously discussed and considered the selection and appointment of an independent member.
- 1.2 Audit Committee best practice and the Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting (known as the Redmond Review) which reported in September 2020 has recommended that Local Government Audit Committees have at least one independent member on their audit committees, with sufficient training and expertise to support elected representatives in scrutinising local authority finances.
- 1.3 At the Corporate Committee meeting in May 2021, the Committee resolved the following:
 1. To confirm the decision to recruit one Independent Member for the London Borough of Lambeth's Corporate Committee.
 2. To agree the role profile and person specification, that will go forward for advertisement.
 3. To agree the process for appointment and to confirm the 2-stage process for selection of applicants.
- 1.4 The process for selection was 2 staged, stage one was conducted by the S.151 Officer and Chief Audit Executive, taking a list of four to a list of two potential candidates for submission to the Committee for interview.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.2 Proposal is to now confirm the decision to appoint Simon Blakeney as Independent Member to the Council Corporate Committee.

The appointment will be for a period of 4 years and is voluntary.

- 2.3 Individuals appointed as Independent Persons must be recruited through a formal procedure and a public advertisement campaign took place during July through to September 2021. A copy of the role description is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 The recruitment exercise attracted four applicants, with two shortlisted candidates invited to attend a panel interview, with the Corporate Committee Chair, two members of the Committee, the S.151 Officer, and Chief Audit Executive on 10 November 2021.
- 2.5 As a result, after interviewing candidates, the Interview Panel has made recommendations to Corporate Committee to appoint Simon Blakeney to serve as Independent Member on Corporate Committee.
- 2.6 A four-year term of office is recommended, which would take effect immediately until the May 2025 Corporate Committee meeting.

3. FINANCE

There are no other financial implications arising from this report.

4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 4.1 The terms of reference for Corporate Committee, are set out in Part IV, Section D of the Constitution. Membership is five councillors, plus up to two non-voting co-opted members. Part X of the Constitution, the Members' Allowances Scheme, does not provide for an allowance for non-voting co-opted members.
- 4.2 There were no further comments from Democratic Services.

5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Public authorities are required to have due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) when making decisions and setting policies.
- 7.2 While there are no specific equalities implications arising from this report, the recruitment process has sought to find a variety of candidates that whilst meeting the profile, offer a variety of different backgrounds and experiences.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 8.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report. However, members are reminded that a breach of the statutory provisions of the Member Code of Conduct is a criminal offence.

9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental

- 9.1 Not applicable.

Health

- 9.2 Not applicable.

Corporate Parenting

- 9.3 Not applicable.

Staffing and accommodation

- 9.4 Not applicable.

Responsible Procurement

9.5 Not applicable.

10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Activity	Proposed Date
Public advertisement campaign / recruitment	July - September 2021
Panel Interviews (Standards Committee)	10 November 2021
Appointed by Corporate Committee	TBC
End of 4 Year Term	May 2025 Committee meeting

Audit Trail				
Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate/ department or partner	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Andy Wilson	Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance	17.11.21	18.11.21	
Andrew Travers, Chief Executive	Chief Executive	17.11.21	17.11.21	
Fiona McDermott, Strategic Director	of Finance and Investment	17.11.21	18.11.21	
Christina Thompson, Director, Finance and Property (Section 151 Officer)	Finance and Property	12.11.21	17.11.21	
Justin Martin, Internal Audit and Counter Fraud	PricewaterhouseCoopers	12.11.21	12.11.21	
Andrew Pavlou, Principal Lawyer (Governance)	Legal and Governance	10.11.21	12.11.21	
Wayne Chandai, Head of the Chief Executive's Office and Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	10.11.21	10.11.21	

Report History	
Report deadline	19.11.21
Date final report sent	18.11.21
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	No
Date first appeared on forward plan	Not applicable
Key decision reasons	Not applicable
Background information	Independent Corporate Committee Co-opted Member Recruitment Report
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Independent Member Job Description