

## THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

### COUNCIL MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2018

#### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE MONITORING OFFICER

#### PROPOSED APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS PANEL

At its meeting on 20th June 2018 the Council agreed to establish an Independent Ethics Panel to advise the Council on best practice and to provide advice on complaints that Members have breached the Code of Conduct. This report recommends appointments to the Panel.

**For Decision**

#### 1. **Introduction**

1.1 As part of its commitment to ensure that it attains the highest ethical standards in its governance and management, the Council has established an Independent Ethics Panel.

1.2 The membership of the Independent Ethics Panel is three external people appointed in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The Panel will be responsible for:

- advising the Council on the best practice to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Members and Co-opted Members of the Council.
- advising the Council on the adoption or revision of a Members' Code of Conduct.
- advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the arrangements for dealing with complaints alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- advising whether a complaint that a member has breached the Code of Conduct should be investigated
- making recommendations to be taken into account by the Audit and Transparency Committee before it takes a decision on a complaint which has been investigated.

1.3 Ms. Johanna Holmes is the Council's Independent Person appointed in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Council needs to make two further appointments.

#### 2. **Application Process and Recommended Appointments**

2.1 We advertised the appointments over the summer in the Borough Newsletter, the Council's website and on the JobsGoPublic website. We received 11

applications. Following interviews, we recommend that Dr Sadie Regmi and Ms Ijeoma Ajibade are appointed to the Panel.

- 2.2 Dr Sadie Regmi is an academic medical doctor in public health at Imperial College with a background in medical ethics. Ms Ijeoma Ajibade is the Regional Director at the Mission for Seafarers, a priest at St. Philip's, Earls Court and was a panel member for the former General Social Care Council.
- 2.3 The Council is recommended to appoint Dr Regmi and Ms Ajibade to the Panel along with Johanna Holmes, the Council's existing independent person.

### **Consultation**

- 3.1 We have consulted the Chairs of the Administration and Audit and Transparency Committees and the Lead Member for Finance and Modernisation.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Council agreed at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to remunerate each member of the Panel with an allowance of £300 per day, anticipating a minimum of four days' work per year. These additional costs are funded from an existing corporate budget and contained within the existing revenue budget.

### **5. Equality Implications**

- 5.1. The Council when taking decisions in relation to any of its functions must comply with its public sector equality duty as set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 5.2. The appointments to the Ethics Panel were advertised in accordance with the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 and the recommendations for appointments are made following the consideration of appropriate and relevant selection criteria.

### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1. The Council is recommended to appoint Dr Sadie Regmi and Ms Ijeoma Ajibade as Independent Persons in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and, with Ms Johanna Holmes, as members of the Ethics Panel. The appointments are to be for the term of the current Council.

Barry Quirk  
**Chief Executive**

LeVerne Parker  
**Monitoring Officer**

Background Papers – None

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