

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 24th September 2020

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, PANELS, OUTSIDE BODIES AND THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL APPEALS PANEL.

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Council's approval to changes to membership of Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies and the appointment of additional Members to the Slough Independent School Appeals Panel.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to resolve:

(a) That the following be appointed to the Independent School Admissions Panel

- Mr Kaye-Taylor as an Education Member.
- Mr Krishnamurthy as an Education Member.
- Mr Sheik as a Lay Member.

(b) That Members be appointed to Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies in accordance with the nominations received as set out in Appendix A
(TO FOLLOW)

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

Effective, transparent and equitable decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

Ensuring good governance arrangements will have positive implications for the SJWS, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan.

4. Other implications

(a) Legal Implications

Panel members are independent of the Admission Authority and must retain their independence for the duration of their service. The recommendation meets the legal requirements of the Schools Admission Code (December 2014) and the School Admission Appeals Code (February 2012).

(b) Financial Implications

There are no other workforce, financial or other implications arising from this administrative report.

5 Supporting Information

Independent School Admissions Panel

- 5.1 The Admission Authority and the Appeal Panel must act in accordance with the Schools Admission Code (December 2014) and the School Admission Appeals Code (February 2012). The Appeals Panels hear and determine appeals from parents who have not been allocated a place at their preferred school.
- 5.2 Appeal Panels perform a quasi-judicial function and must be transparent, impartial, independent, and operate according to principles of natural justice.
- 5.3 Panel Members serve on a voluntary basis and are not paid for their services other than a reimbursement for any mileage/ travel necessarily incurred in travelling to Appeal hearings or training sessions. All newly appointed Panel Members are required to attend training prior to participating in a School Admission Appeal hearing.
- 5.4 The Independent Appeals Panel of Slough Borough Council hears and determines appeals for a number of community schools and academies who have bought into the service. A Panel of three members is selected from a pool of members to hear appeals and the Panel must have at least one lay member and one education member present.
- 5.5 Applications have been received to serve on the Panel from Mr Krishnamurthy, Mr Kaye-Taylor and Mr Sheik. Mr Krishnamurthy and Mr Kaye-Taylor meet the necessary requirements to serve on the Panel as Education Panel Members. Mr Sheik meets the criteria to serve as a Lay Member. Democratic Services, which clerk school admission appeals, have considered the applications and held interviews with prospective candidates in early September and recommend the appointment of the three said members to Council.

Committee/Panel appointments

- 5.1 A limited review of appointments to Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies 2020/21 was undertaken at the Annual General Meeting May 2020.
- 5.2 Council is requested to consider and approve the changes to the membership of Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies, for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A (to follow).

6 Appendices

Appendix A – Committee/Panel Appointments **(TO FOLLOW)**

7 Background Papers

None.