

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on 10 January 2005.

PRESENT: Councillor Clark (Chair), Councillors Biswas, J A Jones, Mrs H Pearson and Porley.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington and R G Long.

****PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER:** Councillor McTigue.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee held on 26 November 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT - FAMILY PLACEMENT PANEL

The Members' Office Manager submitted a report regarding a variation to the membership of the Family Placement Panel as a result of changes to the Executive Portfolios with effect from 1 January 2005.

ORDERED that Councillor Brunton (Executive Member Children's Services) be appointed in place of Councillor B Thompson on the Family Placement Panel.

INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' REMUNERATION - APPOINTMENTS

The Members' Office Manager submitted a report regarding appointments to the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration.

The Committee was reminded of the meeting held on 23 December 2002 when a revised structure had been agreed for the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration. One of the changes had been for the membership of the Panel to be increased from 5 to 6 members and that whenever possible appointments should be made from the following groups of stakeholders: business community (1); public sector (1); local government trade unions (1); faith communities and voluntary sector (1), and general community (2) to ensure a broad range of experience.

It had also been agreed that if an appointment could not be made from a particular sector, then candidates from other sectors would be considered in preference to the Panel remaining without full membership.

It was reported that due to a number of reasons the current Panel had been reduced from six to three members. The vacancies had been in respect of the business sector, the public sector and the local government trade unions sector.

In August 2004, a letter, a copy of which was provided in Appendix 1 was circulated to the bodies and individuals listed at Appendix 2 of the report submitted. Six applications had subsequently been received comprising one from the business sector; five from the public sector but none from the trade union sector. The Committee was advised of further efforts, which had been made to recruit from the latter, including a discussion with the Regional TUC, but no applications had been forthcoming.

Interviews had been conducted with all of the applicants with the exception of one who had subsequently withdrawn their application.

Given that no applications had been received from the trade unions and the Committee had previously agreed that if an appointment could not be made from a particular sector, then candidates from other sectors would be considered, it was suggested that positions be offered to two applicants from the public sector.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That the appointment of John Wright (business sector) to the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration for a period of up to three years be noted.
2. That two representatives from the public sector, namely, Alexander Porter and Brian Footitt be appointed to the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration for a period of up to three years.
3. That the membership of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration be increased from six to seven members.
4. That an application be pursued from the Trade Unions.