

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Lay Members Appointments Committee**
held on Friday, 6th February, 2015 at Committee Suite 2/3 - Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)

Councillors R Fletcher and L Smetham

Officers

Maureen Hills, Paul Mountford and Brett Dainty

Apologies

Councillors K Hickson and D Marren

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor A Thwaite be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

4 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

5 APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS TO INDEPENDENT APPEAL PANEL FOR SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The Committee considered the appointment of individuals to become independent appeal panel members for school admission appeals and school exclusion reviews.

Since 2012, the number of panel members had fallen, predominantly through retirement. There were currently 51 active panel members (27 lay and 24 education members). The number of appeals had increased in 2014 and was expected to continue to rise for the foreseeable future because of the shortage of school places.

Accordingly, officers had undertaken a further recruitment exercise in January 2015. 20 applications had been received. Each of the applicants had been asked to attend an informal interview to enable officers to explain the nature of the role of a panel member and to enable officers to determine whether the interviewees were fit and proper persons to take on the role. All of those interviewed had been deemed suitable to be put forward for recommendation to the Committee for appointment.

Details of the applicants were set out in the Appendix to the report.

All those appointed would receive comprehensive training before sitting on school admission appeals panels and exclusion review panels.

RESOLVED

That the 20 individuals referred to in the Appendix to the report be appointed as independent appeal panel members for school admissions and school exclusion reviews.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.36 am

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)