

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 10 July 2017

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Title: Appointment of Aspire (CRP) Limited
Non-Executive Directors

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Howell

Item for decision

Summary

- 1) This report seeks Cabinet approval for the appointment of two Non-Executive Directors to the board of Aspire (CRP) Limited.

Recommendations

- 2) That Mary Archer and Alan Jones are appointed as Non-Executive Directors on the board of Aspire (CRP) Limited.

Financial Implications

- 3) The cost of £1,020 will be met from the additional income receivable from the Chesterford Research Park investment.

Background Papers

- 4) None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	No specific implications
Community Safety	No specific implications
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	No specific implications
Human Rights/Legal Implications	No specific implications
Sustainability	No specific implications
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Background

- 5) At the time of incorporating the Aspire (CRP) Limited company there was a request from Members to have two Non-Executive Directors on the board.
- 6) Due to the confidentiality requirement around the purchase, the process of recruiting to the roles commenced after completion.
- 7) There were 38 applications of which 4 were taken forward to interview. The interviews were held on 27 and 29 June with the interview panel consisting of the three Aspire Directors along with Councillor Howell.
- 8) The interview panel is recommending to Cabinet that Mary Archer and Alan Jones are appointed.
- 9) Mary Archer worked in the probation service for more than 30 years and was Chief Executive of Essex Probation for 14 years until her retirement in 2016. During the final two years of that period she led the transition from a public sector organisation to new private sector company Sodexo Justice Services, ensuring all matters relating to governance, structure, operating model, IT and financial regulations were resolved. Due to the success of this transition project she was retained as an operational consultant by Sodexo to provide solutions for any outstanding difficult areas.
- 10) Ms Archer will bring extensive skill and experience in areas including governance and strategic planning to the board of Aspire (CRP) Limited. She has board level experience, having acted as an Executive Board Member for Essex Probation and has received recognition for her achievements in her professional career, including being awarded an OBE in 2010.
- 11) Alan Jones has had a successful and varied business career for more than 30 years. His main area of focus as a senior executive has been delivering change and improving profitability in struggling businesses. Among his numerous successes are turning around and selling a £120 million pan-European shipping/container business and overseeing the privatisation and deregulation of a large public transport company. He currently provides professional expertise to SMEs and larger enterprises with a focus on restructure, reorganisation and change management.
- 12) Mr Jones will bring considerable experience in areas including business development and financial analysis to the board of Aspire (CRP) Limited. He is an experienced Non-Executive Director and in addition is a board member and trustee of the Chartered Institute to Logistics and Transport and a management committee member of that institute's Aspire Careers Foundation, a charitable foundation providing funded training, education and development opportunities.
- 13) The salary is £510 per annum including expenses and is the same as the payment given to the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.