

Hi there

Please accept the following few comments in respect of the above consultations which close today:

With respect to the **discussion paper on councillor misconduct**, I'm supporting of the option for a BoI to be established to investigate the conduct of a single councillor, with the proviso that the Board be independently appointed (eg perhaps by the Integrity Commission) and is apolitical. I'm happy with the extended grounds for dismissal, earlier suspension during proceedings and bans from holding office for a period of years.

I don't know anything about the TASCAT route, so can't offer an opinion.

With respect to the discussion paper on merit-based recruitment, I agree with the general proposals. However, I feel the Office of Local Govt could itself provide model policies on HR for adoption by councils, in the same way as it has developed a model Code of Conduct.

I feel enforcement is an issue and perhaps councils should be obliged to make public the numbers and job titles of those recruited without advertisement vs those advertised, plus whether advertisement was internal or external. This could be added to the general reports reviewed at council meetings.

I agree with the proposal to require that all GMs be appointed following open and transparent advertising of the position. The paper goes on to say that the GM must be appointed on merit according to the principles in section 1. These include a paragraph relating to conflict of interests, which I agree with. However, there should perhaps be a route for seeking advice when the conflict of interest is first perceived.

I likewise agree with the performance assessment criteria and directions.

Jenny Cambers-Smith  
Councillor