



**REPORT of
MONITORING OFFICER**

**to
COUNCIL
15 DECEMBER 2016**

**(FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
- 9 DECEMBER 2016)**

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON(S)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the outcome of the recent advertisement / recruitment process and appoint Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council reappoints the current Independent Persons for a further period of four years.

3. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Council on 7 February 2013 it was resolved to confirm the appointment of Mr Norman Victor Hodson as Independent Person to the Joint Standards Committee, and also the appointment of Mr Steven Ronald Anthony and Mr Jonathan Swan as reserve Independent Persons to the Joint Standards Committee (Minute No. 818 refers).
- 3.2 Subsequent decisions of the Council resulted in the terms of office of the Independent Person(s) being clarified and then extended eventually to 8 February 2017.
- 3.3 The Joint Standards Committee, under delegation from the Council, authorised the Monitoring Officer to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the recruitment of a new Independent Person and two reserve Independent Persons. The positions were advertised in the local press and via the Council's website during October 2016. Other than confirmation from the existing Independent Person (Mr N Hodson) and one of the reserve Independent Persons (Mr S R Anthony) as to their willingness to be appointed for a further term (on the basis of the previous applications submitted) no new expressions of interest were received. It is therefore open to the Council to consider re-appointing the two Independent Persons for a further term (maximum of four years).
- 3.4 The Independent Persons are a statutory appointment under the Localism Act 2011 and perform a vital role in ensuring that the Councillor Conduct Complaint process is

conducted fairly between the person making the complaint and the member complained about. The Monitoring Officer can choose to consult with the Independent Person as part of the initial assessment a complaint (Stage 1 of the process), and those the subject of complaint may also speak to the Independent Person at any stage during the process.

- 3.5 A special meeting of the Joint Standards Committee is provisionally arranged for 9 December 2016 and if confirmed its views will be reported separately to the Council by way of an update to this report.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 4.1 This links with the corporate goal of ‘Delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services in a transparent way’ and the desire for high ethical standards. It also complies with the law.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Meets two core values of ‘Transparent and Accountable’ and ‘Customer Focus’ supporting the Council’s corporate goals.

A robust constitution, strong ethical standards framework coupled with appropriate guidance and the independent overview ensure high standards of conduct, community leadership to our customers and communities using an appropriate and measured response to any issues.

- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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