

## **Committee: Standards and General Purposes Committee**

**Date: 8 September 2016**

Wards: All

### **Subject: Appointment of Independent Person**

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of Standards Committee

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, 0208 545 3864

**Reason for urgency:** The Chair has approved the submission of this report as an urgent item, in order to prevent delay in filling the vacant Independent Person position.

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Standards and General Purposes Committee agrees that an interview panel comprising one councillor from each political group should be appointed to interview and recommend to Council the appointment of one Independent Person to serve for a period of three years.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to commence the recruitment of a new Independent Person and to appoint an interview panel, comprising one councillor from each political group to interview all candidates and recommend to Council the appointment of the successful applicant.
- 1.2. The now defunct Standards Committee previously put arrangements in place for the recruitment of independent persons and agreed to combine the roles of the independent persons and the independent non-voting co-opted members of the Standards Committee.

## **2 DETAILS**

### INDEPENDENT PERSONS

- 2.1. The Localism Act 2011 requires the council to appoint at least one independent person. The functions of the independent person, set out in the council's constitution, are:
- The independent person must be consulted and views taken into account before the authority takes a decision on any allegation it has decided to investigate
  - The independent person may be consulted by the authority in circumstances where the authority is not taking a decision whether to investigate the allegation
  - The independent person may be consulted by a member of the authority against whom an allegation has been made.
- 2.2 Two independent persons were appointed in July 2015. One of them, Suresh Patel, resigned on 31 August 2016, creating a vacancy.

2.3 Officers will commence the recruitment of a new Independent Person as soon as possible, subject to the agreement of this Committee.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

3.1. The Council must appoint at least one independent person

3.2. The composition of the interview panel is discretionary

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

4.1. None

### **5 TIMETABLE**

5.1. N/A

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. Independent persons are invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee, and are paid £100 per meeting. The recommendations in this report will not lead to any increase in the overall budget for allowances

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. See body of report

### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. None specific to this report

### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None specific to this report

### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. None specific to this report

### **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- None

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None