

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

**Date: 4 November 2021**

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

Lead officer: Louise Round, Monitoring Officer

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair, Standards and General Purposes Committee

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager, 0208 545 3357

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#### **Recommendations:**

- A. That Standards and General Purposes Committee recommends to Council to appoint Clive Douglas for a further three year period as an Independent Person for the purposes of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act. The Independent Person will be invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee in that capacity.
- B. That the appointment is made for a period of three years from 8 February 2022.
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#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report seeks the committee's approval of the appointment of one Independent Person which we are required to appoint under Chapter 7 of the 2011 Localism Act.

#### **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. Independent Persons are appointed for a maximum of two terms of three years. Clive Douglas was appointed as an Independent Person in February 2019, with his term due to end on 7 February 2022.
- 2.2. At the last meeting of the Standards and General Purposes Committee on 21 September 2021, the committee agreed that in the event that Mr Douglas wished to remain as an Independent Person for a further term of three years, a report to this effect would be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 2.3. Following confirmation from Mr Douglas in discussion with the Monitoring Officer that he wishes to serve for a further term, the recommendation is to approve this appointment for another three years and not go through any further external recruitment process.
- 2.4. 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.

2.5. The Independent Person will also be invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee in that capacity.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

3.1. The Council must appoint at least one Independent Person.

3.2. The Committee could agree to go to an external recruitment process.

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

4.1. None.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

5.1. The appointment, if agreed, would be made by Council in November 2021 and will take effect on 8 February 2022 when the current term ends for a period of three years.

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

6.1. Independent Persons 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 the 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.

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

11.1. None.

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None.