

Committee: Council

Date: 17 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

Recommendations:

- A. That Council agrees 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 Council's approval of the appointment of one Independent Person which we are required to appoint under Chapter 7 of the 2011 Localism Act.
- 1.2. The appointment was agreed by the Standards and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 4 November 2021.

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. Following confirmation from Mr Douglas in discussion with the Monitoring Officer that he wishes to serve for a further term, the recommendation to approve this appointment for another three years was agreed at the Standards and General Purposes Committee meeting on 4 November 2021.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. None.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. The appointment, if agreed, would be made by Council on 17 November 2021 and will take effect on 8 February 2022 when the current term ends for a period of three years, allowing the two terms to run concurrently.

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.