

Merton Council Council

6 February 2019

Supplementary agenda 1

12 Appointment of an Independent Person

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Committee: Council

Date: 6 February 2019

Subject: Appointment of Independent Person

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democratic Services Officer, 0208 545 3357

Recommendations:

- A. That Council agrees to appoint Clive Douglas 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 7 February 2019.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks Council'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. 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. The Independent Person will also be invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee in that capacity.
- 2.3. Independent Persons are appointed for a maximum of two terms of three years. Following the end of the term of office of one Independent Person, Derek Prior, the Standards and General Purposes Committee agreed to the appointment of an interview panel, comprising one councillor nominated from each political group to interview and recommend the appointment to Council.
- 2.4. The interview panel comprised Councillors Edith Macauley, Janice Howard, Peter Southgate and Simon McGrath. Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance attended as an observer. Interviews took place on 18

and 22 January 2019 and the panel recommended the appointment of Clive Douglas to the post.

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 made by Council will take effect on 7 February 2019 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.