

Committee: Council

Date: 8 July 2015

Wards: All

Subject: Appointment of independent persons

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance

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

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

Recommendations:

1. That Council agrees to appoint Suresh Patel and Derek Prior as independent persons for the purposes of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act. The independent persons will be invited to attend meetings of the Standards Committee in that capacity
 2. That the appointments are made for a period of three years from 12 July 2015
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To seek Council's approval of the appointment of two independent persons which we are required to appoint under Chapter 7 of the 2011 Localism Act.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. The independent persons will also be invited to attend meetings of the Standards Committee in that capacity.
- 1.4. Standards Committee appointed an interview panel comprising one councillor nominated from each political group to interview and recommend the appointments to Council.
- 1.5. The interview panel comprised Councillor Peter McCabe, Peter Southgate and David Williams. Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, attended as an observer. Interviews took place on 24 June 2015 and the panel recommended the appointment of Suresh Patel and Derek Prior to the posts.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1. None.

4 TIMETABLE

4.1. The appointments made by Council will take effect on 12 July 2015 for a period of three years.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Independent persons are paid £100 per meeting. The recommendations in this report will not lead to any increase in the overall budget for allowances.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. See body of the report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None specific to this report.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None specific to this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None specific to this report

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

- none

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. None