

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2019

Report Title	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS
Contacts	Head of Legal and Commercial Services 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of report	To extend the term of office of the Independent Persons appointed under the Localism Act 2011
Council priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	None
Health and Safety	None
Risk Management	Discussed in the report
Equalities Impact Screening	Not applicable
Human Rights	Considered in drafting Code of Conduct arrangements
Transformational Government	No direct implications
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees	Independent Persons
Background papers	Council Report 26 June 2012 – Localism Act 2011 – new Standards regime Council Report 17 May 2016 - Appointment Of Independent Persons
Recommendations	TO EXTEND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO THE END OF THE 2019-2020 MUNICIPAL YEAR

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 26 June 2012 Council considered a report which detailed the changes to the role of the Independent Person introduced to the Standards Regime under the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 A joint recruitment exercise was undertaken with other County Authorities and Members were asked to formally appoint the nine successful applicants to a pool of Independent Persons who would be available to be called upon by both Members and the Monitoring Officer during any standards investigations. This process was repeated in 2016 and six applicants were successful in being appointed to the pool for the period ending May 2019.

2.0 FUTURE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 2.1 A number of Monitoring Officers involved in the original joint recruitment exercise have expressed the view that the process was a success and produced a number of high quality candidates and they would like to see the process repeated when seeking to replace the current Independent Persons.
- 2.2 The authority which led on the previous recruitment exercise has again agreed to lead on the recruitment exercise for replacement Independent Persons albeit they propose to run the exercise during the 2019/20 municipal year with the new pool to be in place for the start of the 2020/21 municipal year. As a result, the process will not be completed before the term of appointment of the current Independent Persons expires.

3.0 INTERIM MEASURES

- 3.1 As an interim measure, and in order to facilitate an effective recruitment exercise, it is proposed that the term of appointment of this Council's Independent Persons is extended to the end of the 2019/20 municipal year. The Independent Persons have agreed in principle that they are willing to extend their term of appointment subject to Council confirming this extension.
- 3.2 It is recommended that this Council therefore extends the term of appointment of its Independent Persons and then participates in the joint recruitment exercise to appoint Independent Persons with effect from 2020/21. All the current IPs (listed below) have been contacted and have agreed to remain in post, with Council approval, until the end of the 2019/20 municipal year.

Mrs Christine Howell
Mr Gordon Grimes
Mr Michael Pearson
Mr Richard Gough
Mr Rob Wade
Mr Mark Shaw