

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2025



Title of Report	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS	
Presented by	Kate Hiller Head of Legal and Support Services/Monitoring Officer	
Background Papers	Council Report 25 May 2021 – Appointment of Independent Persons 2021 – 2025 Council Report 23 June 2020 – Appointment of Independent Persons	Public Report: Yes. Appendix 1 is restricted by virtue of Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.
Financial Implications	While it is an unsalaried position, Independent Persons are entitled to allowances, which will be paid from the existing expenses budget.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None except as stated in this Report.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no specific staffing issues arising from this Report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To appoint the pool of Independent Persons in accordance with legislative requirements.	
Recommendations	THAT COUNCIL APPOINTS THE INDEPENDENT PERSONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2.2 OF THIS REPORT FOR A TERM OF OFFICE OF FOUR YEARS UNTIL ANNUAL COUNCIL IN MAY 2029	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011, provides that a relevant authority must have in place Arrangements under which Councillor Code of Conduct complaints can be dealt with. This includes having provision for the appointment of at least one Independent Person (IP) whose views are to be sought and taken into account by the authority before it makes a decision on an allegation.
- 1.2 A person may not be appointed as an IP unless the vacancy has been advertised in such a manner so as to bring it to the attention of the public, the person has submitted an application, and the appointment has been approved by a majority of the members of the authority.

- 1.3 The Council has been part of an IP pool arrangement with the seven other Leicestershire District and Borough Councils. Appointment to the pool has been via a joint recruitment exercise. Appointments were last made in May 2021, and the term of office of the current pool expires at the Annual Council meeting.

2.0 RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 2.1 In January 2025, the District and Borough Monitoring Officers agreed to a joint recruitment exercise to select new IPs. It was felt that this approach had secured a selection of good quality candidates in the past and would provide resilience by continuing the pool arrangement. The recruitment exercise was led by the Monitoring Officer from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. Following a recruitment process and interview, the following candidates are recommended for appointment as IPs:

Mr Richard Gough
Mr Michael Gibson
Mr Laurence Faulkner
Mr Mark Shaw
Mr Gordon Grimes
Mr Michael Chad Smith
Mr Matthew Johnson

- 2.2 A brief resume of each candidate can be found at Appendix 1. It is recommended that the IPs are appointed until Annual Council in May 2029. The Leicestershire Monitoring Officers are discussing whether training can be arranged for the IPs, should the appointments be confirmed. This may involve a contribution by the Council towards the costs of any training.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council. Maintaining and promoting high standards of member conduct supports all the Council's priorities.
Policy Considerations:	The Council has adopted Arrangements for dealing with complaints about Councillors.
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	An open and transparent recruitment process was followed.
Customer Impact:	The IPs could be consulted by MOs, Councillors, and members of the public.
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	N/A
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The vacancies for the Independent Persons were advertised across Leicestershire.
Risks:	Outlined within the Report.
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