

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 24 FEBRUARY 2015

Title of report	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS
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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
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	Discussed in the report
Equalities Impact Screening	Not applicable
Human Rights	Considered in drafting the Code of Conduct arrangements
Transformational Government	No direct implications
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	As author, the report is satisfactory.

Consultees	Independent Persons
Background papers	Council Report 26 June 2012 – Localism Act 2011 – new Standards regime
Recommendations	TO EXTEND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO THE END OF THE 2015-2016 MUNICIPAL YEAR

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will recall that 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 9 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.
- 1.3 Members agreed that the term of the appointment of the Independent Members would run concurrently with full council elections and therefore their term of appointment will expire on Monday 11 May 2015.

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 Members.
- 2.2 The authority which led on the previous recruitment exercise has again agreed to lead on the recruitment exercise for replacement Independent Members albeit that they have indicated that because the process was time consuming on the last occasion they are unlikely to be able to complete the process before the end of the current municipal year when the term of appointment of the current Independent member's expires.

3.0 INTERIM MEASURES

- 3.1 As an interim measure and in order to facilitate an effective recruitment exercise the lead authority has extended the term of appointment of its Independent Members to the end of the 2015-16 municipal years.
- 3.2 The Independent Members have agreed in principle that they are willing to extend their term of appointment subject to the governance arrangements at each authority.
- 3.3 It is recommended that this Council therefore extends the term of appointment of its Independent Members and then participates in the joint recruitment exercise to appoint Independent Members with effect from 2016/17.