

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Standards and Ethics Committee - 15 September 2022

**Report Title**

Standards and Ethics Committee - Re-appointment of Standards and Ethics Committee Independent Persons

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

N/A

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report reviews the arrangements for the Council's Independent Persons and makes recommendations to re-appoint the current Independent Persons.

**Recommendations**

That the Committee re-appointments the current Independent Persons until the end of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

**List of Appendices Included**

N/A

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Standards and Ethics Committee - Re-appointment of Standards and Ethics Committee Independent Persons**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011, s28, requires an authority to appoint at least one Independent Person who has duties in relation to the handling of complaints. In particular the Localism Act requires the Independent Person's views to be sought, and taken into account, by the Council before it makes its decision on an allegation it has decided to investigate. The Council has appointed two Independent Persons, Phil Beavers and David Roper-Newman who are not members of the Committee, but attend at meetings.
- 1.2 Both Independent Persons have provided significant contribution to the Councils Standards and Ethics regime, one of them being consulted on all complaints received by the Council as well as providing contributions to policy matters and other issues at meetings.
- 1.3 Bearing in mind the valuable contribution made by the Independent Persons and taking into account the views expressed at the previous meeting by members of the Committee about the reappointment of the current Independent Persons, the Committee is asked to consider the reappointment of both Independent Persons until the end of the 2023/24 municipal year.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 It is necessary for the Committee ensure that appropriately qualified individuals are appointed as Independent Persons.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Recommendations are set out above.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 N/A

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

If the recommendation is accepted the current Independent Persons will continue in their role until the end of the 2023/24 municipal year.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 The Independent Persons are paid £700 expenses per annum.

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 The Council and the Standards and Ethics Committee have a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. The appointment of at least one Independent Person by the Council contributes to that duty and as stated above is a requirement of the Localism Act.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

None

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

None

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

None

**11. Implications for Partners**

None

**12. Risks and Mitigation**

None

**13. Accountable Officer(s)**

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services

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