

CONDUCT COMMITTEE

16 February 2015

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

Report of the Monitoring Officer

STRATEGIC AIM:	All
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To alert the Conduct Committee to the approaching end date of the appointment of one of the Council's Independent Persons and to discuss options to remain resilient in this area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee recommends to Council the extension of Mr Shatner's appointment as Independent Person to 31 March 2017.**

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires a relevant authority to make provision for the appointment of at least one Independent Person, whose views are sought, and taken into account, by the authority, before it makes a decision on an allegation involving an elected member's conduct.
- 3.2 The Council has appointed two individuals to act as Independent Persons in this regard. Mr Shatner was appointed with an end contract date of 30th June 2015 and Mr Grimes was subsequently appointed with an end contract date of 31st March 2017.
- 3.3 Although the Council can retain just one Independent Person, it is preferable to retain two in case an Independent Person is unavailable or perhaps conflicted out of a particular matter.
- 3.4 In order to maintain a position of resilience, it is recommended that the appointment of Mr Shatner is extended to 31st March 2017, to align with that of Mr Grimes.
- 3.5 If the Conduct Committee agrees to this course of action, a report will be presented to Full Council for their consideration and approval of the extended appointment.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Low	The recommendation can be implemented quickly subject to approval by Full Council.
Viability	Low	As above.
Finance	Low	There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. The Independent Persons are not remunerated for their roles; they are able to claim expenses for attendance at meetings.
Profile	Low	There may be some public interest in the content but this is unlikely to be significant.
Equality and Diversity	Low	No impact assessment has been carried out as there are no direct implications.

Background Papers

None.

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.