

To: Council

Date: 20 July 2017

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Title of Report: Extension of term for appointments of Independent Persons

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: This report asks Council to authorise the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the council's independent persons for code of conduct matters for a further two years.

Policy Framework: N/A

Recommendation(s): Council is recommended to authorise the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the Council's Independent Persons for code of conduct matters for a further two years.

Summary of report

1. The Localism Act 2011 ("the Act") created a new category of Independent Person who the Monitoring Officer must consult at various stages of the process when dealing with allegations of misconduct by district or parish councillors.
2. At its meeting on 16th July 2012, the Council appointed Chris Ballinger, Godfrey Cole, Jill McLeery and Ben Simpson as the Council's Independent Persons for five years.
3. These appointments were made following an advertisement, application and interview process and with a positive vote by a majority of councillors as required by the Localism Act. The Localism Act does not prescribe a time limit on the terms of office of independent persons and these are therefore within the discretion of the Council.
4. It would be open to the Council to carry out a fresh recruitment process at this time or to reappoint the current Independent Persons for a further term.
5. Since their appointment, the current Independent Persons have attended training, carried out their roles diligently, and gained experience from which the Council can benefit for a further period. The Independent Persons have

collectively dealt with complaints about Members who are accused of breaching the Code of Conduct as they arise.

6. The Independent Persons have been asked to confirm their agreement to the proposed extension of their term of office and have each confirmed that they are willing to continue in the role.

Financial and Legal Implications

7. There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from the recommendations contained in the report.
8. The Council is required by the Act to appoint at least one Independent Person and the Council does not pay its Independent Persons.

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Background papers: none