

Appointment of Independent Person

Report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That Mr Peter Reader be appointed as an Independent Person until 1 May 2026 pursuant to Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

SUMMARY:

- Mr Peter Reader has been interviewed for the position of Independent Person and is recommended for appointment.
- The appointment must be approved by full Council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 (the Act) changed the ethical framework applicable to local authorities. The provisions came into force in 2012 and included the requirement for the Council to appoint Independent Persons who can be consulted in the case of allegations of failure to comply with the code of conduct and who will be present at any meetings where breaches are considered.
- 1.2 Furthermore, the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 which came into force in 2016 require the Council to consider the advice, views or recommendations of a panel before taking the decision to dismiss any of its Statutory Officers. The panel must include Independent Persons.
- 1.3 Independent Person appointment must be approved by Council after the recruitment process required by the Localism Act has been followed.

2 Background

- 2.1 The position of Independent Person has been advertised as required by the Act. Mr Peter Reader submitted an application, was interviewed and it is considered that he is eminently suitable for appointment.

3 Consultations/Communications

- 3.1 There were none as the process for appointment is a statutory process.

4 Options

- 4.1 Option 1 – To formally appoint Mr Reader.

4.2 Option 2 – Not to confirm the appointment.

5 Option Appraisal

5.1 The Council wishes to make an appointment to the post of Independent Person. A suitably experienced applicant has applied for the post. The recommended option is therefore Option 1, that Mr Reader is appointed to the post of Independent Person.

6 Risk Management

6.1 In respect of the recommended option, an evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

7 Resource Implications

7.1 There are none, the Independent Person is an unremunerated post but travel and subsistence expenses are paid which can be accommodated within existing budgets.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 These have been dealt with above.

9 Equality Issues

9.1 No equality issues arise as a consequence of this report.

10 Other Issues

10.1 None identified.

11 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

11.1 Mr Peter Reader is a suitable candidate for appointment as an Independent Person and recommends his appointment.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	0	File Ref:	N/A
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(Portfolio: Democracy and Governance) Councillor I Jeffrey

Officer:	Karen Dunn	Ext:	8401
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Report to:	Council	Date:	6 April 2022
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