
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To: **Council – 6 December 2012**

By: **Harvey Patterson, Corporate Services & Regulatory Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: To ratify the appointment of 2 Independent Persons of the Standards Committee

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At its previous meeting on 12 July 2012, Council agreed that applications in writing be sought from members of the public interested in becoming an Independent Person of the Standards Committee.
- 1.2 Under the arrangements set out by the Localism Act 2011, the Council has to appoint at least one “Independent Person” who must be consulted before the Council makes any findings in relation to a complaint that has been investigated. He or she may also be consulted by the Council at the initial complaints assessment stage or by the member the subject of a complaint. The appointment of such Independent Persons must be ratified by a meeting of the Council. The Council agreed to appoint two Independent Persons in order to manage potential conflicts and resignations as well as sickness and holiday absence. It is suggested that one Independent Person is appointed and one reserve.

2.0 Appointing Independent Members of the Standards Committee

- 2.1 The Council received a number of applications for the role of Independent Person of the Standards Committee and interviews were undertaken by the Standards Appointments Working Party on the 10 October. As a result of this the Standards Appointments Working Party recommended two applicants to fill the vacant positions. These were Mr Dennis James and Mr Peter Tucker.
- 2.2 Council is asked to appoint Mr Dennis James as the Independent Person and Mr Peter Tucker as Substitute Independent Person of the Standards Committee for a term starting as of the date of this meeting and ending on 21 May 2015.
- 2.3 It is also proposed that Independent Persons of the Standards Committee receive a small allowance for their time and efforts and this is dealt with by the Members Allowances report elsewhere within the agenda for this meeting.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial

- 3.1.1 Giving Independent Persons of the Standards Committee an allowance will have an impact on the allowances budget. The full impact of this is covered in the Members Allowances report elsewhere in the agenda for this meeting.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 No legal implications at this stage.

6.3 Corporate

6.3.1 None at this stage.

6.4 Equity and Equalities

6.4.1 None at this stage.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Council notes the recommendation of the Standards Appointments Working Party and appoints both Mr Dennis James and Mr Peter Tucker as Independent Persons of the Standards Committee for a term starting from the date of this meeting and ending on 21 May 2015.

8.0 Decision Making Process

8.1 This is a decision for Council.

Contact Officer:	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Philip Hamberger, Director of Corporate Services and Transformation

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager and Deputy S.151 Officer
Legal	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager and Monitoring Officer