



Northumberland

County Council

REPORT FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: 13TH OCTOBER 2022

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT PERSONS

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the recruitment process for two additional Independent Persons. The Interview Panel will have interviewed the candidates by the date of the Standards Committee and will report their recommendations to the Committee.

Recommendations

1. To receive the report of the Interview Panel, and
2. To recommend the appointment of the successful candidates for Independent Persons to the next meeting of full Council.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “How” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan.

Key issues

The Council currently only has one Independent Person and Council agreed at its January 2022 meeting that the process of appointing two additional Independent Persons be delegated to the Standards Committee.

Background

1. The Council is required, under the Localism Act 2011, to appoint at least one Independent Person who has a role to play primarily in the assessment of complaints in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer as well as supporting the work of the Standards Committee. The current incumbent was appointed in this capacity in 2020 and Council on the 5th January 2022 endorsed reappointment for a further two years until 31st January 2024.
2. As well as the role under the Localism Act 2011, the Independent Person also has a role to act as Independent Person in disciplinary matters for Chief Officers under the

model procedure set out in the Conditions of Service Handbook of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Executives.

3. Other Councils regionally have more than one Independent Person and it believed to be prudent for Northumberland County Council to have two further Independent Persons.
4. On the 5th January 2022 at a meeting of Full Council members agreed the appointment of two further Independent Persons and delegated the recruitment process to Standards Committee in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer. However, final approval of the successful candidates will still need to be approved by Full Council.
5. At its meeting on the 10th February 2022 the standards committee approved the interview pack and agreed the composition of the interview panel. The composition of the interview panel was further changed to replace Councillor Wallace with Councillor Dunn at the meeting on 14th July 2022A. The interviews will be taking place on the 6th and 7th of October 2022.
6. Once the interviews are concluded the panel will report to members at the meeting of Standards Committee with a recommendation as to who should be appointed. Members will then need to recommend to Council that the successful candidates are appointed as Independent Persons.

Implications

Policy	N/A
Finance and value for money	The independent persons would each be paid an allowance of £2,700 per annum which is already provided for within the Council's General Fund Budget.
Legal	These are as set out in the report
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	The Council's recruitment and selection good practice standards will be adhered to in the selection process
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	The recruitment process will be open to all sections of the community

Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	N/A
Carbon reduction	N/A
Wards	All

Background papers:

Localism Act 2011

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full name of officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Service Director Finance & Interim S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	N/A
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	N/A

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