

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Standards Committee**

**5 October 2022**

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## **Appointment of an Independent Person (s.27 Localism Act 2011)**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report asks the Standards Committee to recommend Full Council ratify the appointment of an Independent Person.

### **Background**

2. The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to appoint at least one Independent Person (IP) whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Council makes a decision on an allegation it has decided to investigate. The views of an IP may also be sought on other allegations, and by a member who is the subject of an allegation.
3. The Council has chosen to appoint three Independent Persons. These were appointed for four-year terms on 18 May 2021, following a recruitment process overseen by the Standards Committee.
4. As a result of changed circumstances, one of the Independent Persons had resigned their position. The Committee is therefore asked to recommend an appointment to the end of the council term in May 2025.

### **Main Considerations**

5. The Committee was updated of the vacancy for an Independent Person at its meeting on 15 June 2022. In accordance with previous appointments the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, would oversee a process for recruitment.
6. Following advertisement in the Summer, nine candidates were received for interview.
7. The Chairman, along with two other Members, and supported by the Democracy and Complaints Manager, conducted interviews on 5 and 6 September 2022.
8. Following those interviews the Chairman will recommend the appointment of a candidate at the meeting on 5 October 2022.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

9. There are no safeguarding issues arising from this report.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

10. There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

### **Risk assessment**

11. There are no significant risks arising from this report.

### **Financial Implications**

12. The IPs each currently receive remuneration of £2,566 a year for carrying out their duties. This sum is adjusted in accordance with the annual pay award to council staff, as with Member allowance, and was set by Council in 2021.

### **Legal Implications**

13. The recommendations in this report are consistent with the Council's obligations under the relevant legislation.

### **Public Health Impact of the Proposals**

14. There are no public health impacts arising from this report.

### **Environmental Impact of the Proposals**

15. There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

### **Recommendation**

16. That Council ratify the appointment of an Independent Person following the selection process undertaken by the Standards Committee

**Perry Holmes, Director, Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer**

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