

Board/Committee:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	31 MARCH 2021
Title:	APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011
Author:	BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To advise members of the recruitment process for an Independent Person under The Localism Act 2011 and to recommend appointments be made by the Council.

Recommendation

That the Council approves the appointment of Mr C Willis as an Independent Person for the purposes of Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 for the period of 4 years ending on 31 March 2025.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Under the provisions of Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'), the Council is required to appoint at least one Independent Person to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst its elected and co-opted members.
- 1.2 The Independent Person is required to be consulted before the Standards and Governance Committee of the Council makes a decision on a complaint that a Member has breached the code of conduct that is being investigated. The Independent Person may also be consulted by the Monitoring Officer in relation to allegations before a decision is taken to investigate such a complaint and also by a Member who is subject to an allegation.
- 1.3 The Independent Person may also be invited to attend meetings of The Standards and Governance Committee if it is considering an allegation of a breach of the code of conduct.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Council previously appointed 2 Independent Persons, Mr P Large and Miss S Dawson, Miss Dawson tendered her resignation

from the role in 2020.

- 2.2 The role was advertised and also sent to the three people that has formed the Members Remuneration Panel. Mr Willis expressed interest in undertaking the role and an interview took place with a panel made up of the three elected members with cross party representation, and the Council's Senior Solicitor.
- 2.3 The interview panel recommend the appointment of Mr Willis who lives and works within the Borough.
- 2.4 Mr Willis satisfied the interview panel that he had the skills and attributes the Council require as set out in the advertisement and the application pack.

Financial Services comments:	None
Legal Services comments:	Contained in the report
Service Improvement Plan implications:	None
Corporate Plan:	None
Risk Assessment:	
Background papers:	None
Appendices/Enclosures:	None
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Paul Grant.