

Recommendations to the Council

10 February 2022

Re-Appointment/Appointment of Independent Persons under Localism Act 2011

1. The County Council has a Code of Conduct for members which complies with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. That Code requires the involvement of Independent Persons (IPs) in considering alleged breaches of the Code. An Independent Person has to be consulted by the Monitoring Officer at various stages of the complaint handling process. Separately, if the complaint is pursued, the member complained about has the right to seek the views of an Independent Person.

2. Additionally the Employment Rules for the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer require Independent Persons to be included in the membership of any special committee which might make recommendations to Council on any disciplinary action against the holders of those posts.

3. In 2017 the Council agreed to add to its then list of 2 Independent Persons by appointing a further two – Mr Tom Roach and Mrs Christina Robotham, each for a period of four years. The service and commitment given by both Mr Roach and Mrs Robotham, particularly following the loss of the original two IPs, has been greatly valued and appreciated and therefore Council is asked to approve their re-appointment for a further four year period. Both have confirmed their willingness to continue in the role.

4. To address the limited number of IPs currently available for consultation by the Monitoring Officer and other parties, it is proposed that a recruitment exercise be carried out with a view to appointing at least 1 more IP. That exercise would fall under the remit of the Audit and Standards Committee with any preferred 'candidate' recommended to Council for approval.

5. Recommended:

- (i) That Mr Tom Roach and Mrs Christina Robotham be re-appointed as Independent Persons for a further four year period;
- (ii) That the Audit and Standards Committee be requested to carry out a further recruitment exercise for a Independent Person(s).