

Agenda Item No.5 (a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5th October 2016

Standards Committee

Report of the Director of Legal Services

Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee

1. Purpose of the report

To inform the Standards Committee of the re-appointment by the Council of the three Independent Persons for a second term of four years.

2. Information and Analysis

At its meeting on 5th December 2012, the Council appointed Mr Peter Smith, Mr Lloyd Newby and Mr Keith Jackson-Horner to sit on the standards Committee as Independent Persons for a term of four years.

The role of an Independent Person is to assist the Standards Committee in maintaining the high ethical standards of Councillors and to be consulted, as appropriate, by the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee in considering allegations made against Members. An Independent Person can also be consulted by Members against whom complaints have been made.

Following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, a report to the Council on 14th September 2016 reported that the three Independent Persons' current terms of office would come to an end in December 2016. In view of the experience which they had gained, it was considered that it would be helpful to secure their continuation in office and that they had all indicated they would be happy to continue for a second term. The Council, therefore, confirmed their appointment for a second term of four years, expiring in December 2020.

3. Legal Considerations

Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the appointment of Independent Persons for the purpose described above.

4. Financial Considerations

Each Independent Person receives an allowance of £125 per session for attendance at meetings, hearings or training events.

5. Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, social value, property and transport considerations

6. Background papers

None

7. Officer Recommendation

That the Committee notes the re-appointment of Mr Peter Smith, Mr Lloyd-Newby and Mr Keith Jackson-Horner as Independent Persons on the Standards Committee for a second four year term.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services