

Council

16 March 2021

Appointment of Independent Persons

Recommendation

Council extends the term of office of the following independent persons until 19th October 2021

Mr David Stone
Mr Garth Murphy
Ms Maureen O'Sullivan
Mr Ray Tomkinson
Mr Howard Darling
Ms Mumtaz Goolam

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, local authorities must put in place arrangements to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst its councillors and co-opted members. As part of those arrangements the Council must appoint independent persons.
- 1.2 An Independent Person is not a member of any committee but the Council must seek his or her views, and take them into account, before taking a decision on an allegation that the Council has decided to investigate under the Member Code of Conduct. The views of an Independent Persons can also be sought by a member under investigation.
- 1.3 The County Council has combined forces with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Rugby Borough Council to create a joint panel where Independent Persons may act for more than one authority. The incidence of complaints requiring investigation can be very variable and single authority arrangements often fail to provide the necessary opportunities to enable Independent Persons to maintain their skills.
- 1.4 In July and September 2017 the Council appointed the above-named independent persons to the joint panel for a period of 4 years. The Council is due to refresh those appointments during 2021 following the elections and arrangements for a refreshed recruitment round are currently being finalised, working with those other local Councils who wish to be part of this joint arrangement. It is therefore recommended that those appointments be extended until 19th October 2021 so that the existing appointments do not

cease before fresh appointments are made.

2. Financial Implications

None

3. Environmental Implications

None

4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

4.1 Council decisions take immediate effect.

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: N/A