

County Council

28 September 2021

Independent Persons

Recommendation

That Council appoint the named individuals in the Appendix to the position of Independent Person for a four-year period to 30 September 2025.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report confirms the arrangements for the appointment of Independent Persons as required by Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 for a four-year term of office.
- 1.2 Part 1, Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 came into effect on 1 July 2011 (the 2011 Act). Section 28 of the 2011 Act requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views will be sought when making decisions about allegations that Councillors have breached the Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 The Act requires that any Independent Person must not be, or have been within the past 5 years, a member, co-opted member or officer of the Council or any of the Parish or Town Councils in the Council's area; nor should they be a relative or close friend of a member, co-opted member or officer in the Council's area.
- 1.4 The role of the Independent Person was widened under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) England (Amendment) Regulations 2015 which came into force on 11 May 2015 and changed the localised disciplinary process. A panel of at least 2 Independent Persons has to be convened to make recommendations to Council in connection with statutory Chief Officers.
- 1.5 The panel was last formally refreshed in 2017 and Council agreed on 16 March 2021 to extend the appointments of our current pool of Independent Persons to 19 October 2021 to enable the completion of a recruitment process in conjunction with a number of the District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire, and Solihull MBC.
- 1.6 That process of recruitment has concluded and those named at the Appendix are recommended for reappointment.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no direct costs incurred in the appointment and training / development of Independent Persons because they do not receive an allowance and training will be delivered jointly by the Monitoring Officers of the participating authorities.
- 2.2 Independent Persons are, however, entitled to receive expenses if called upon to act.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 4.1 If approved, the Independent Persons listed at the Appendix will be reappointed for a four-year term to 30 September 2025.

Appendix

1. List of Appointees

Background Papers

1. None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Nichola Vine	nicholavine@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 416379
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The report was not circulated to members prior to publication.

Appendix

Standards Regime - List of Independent Persons from October 2021

1. Howard Darling
2. Mumtaz Goolam
3. Garth Murphy
4. Maureen O'Sullivan
5. David Stone
6. Raymond Leslie Tomkinson