

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – LOCALISM ACT 2011 REAPPOINTMENT OF
INDEPENDENT PERSON**

COUNCIL Date: 26 July 2017	CLASSIFICATION: OPEN
WARD(S) AFFECTED ALL	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR Chief Executive	

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 (The “Act”) to appoint an “independent person” whose views have to be sought, and taken into account, before the Council investigates a complaint against a Member or voting co-opted Member of the Council. A Member against whom a complaint has been made also has a right to consult the Independent Person about the complaint. This report seeks Council’s approval to re-appoint Jonathan Stopes Roe to the position of Independent Person for the period of four years.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to approve the re-appointment of Mr Jonathan Stopes-Roe as the Independent Person for a further period of four years. This appointment will come to an end in June 2021.

3. Comments of the Director of Legal

Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires each local authority to appoint at least one Independent Person –

- (a) Whose views are sought and taken into account before the council makes its decision on an allegation that it has decided to investigate and
- (b) Whose views may be sought –
 - (i) In relation to an allegation not falling within (a) above,
 - (ii) By a Member or voting co-optee who is complained about.

- 3.1 The Act stipulates that a person is not independent if the person is –
- (i) A Member, co-opted Member or officer of the Council, or has held such a role at the Council within the previous 5 years
 - (ii) A relative or close friend of a Member or co-opted Member of the Council.
- 3.2 The original appointment of Mr Stopes-Roe was by way of an open advert and recruitment process and whilst this is not a paid position, an annual attendance allowance of £455.90 is paid via quarterly instalments.
- 3.3 Jonathan Stopes-Roe continues to meet the definition of independent person. The Act does not prescribe a time limit on the term of office of the Independent Person and this is therefore within the discretion of the Council. Jonathan Stopes-Roe has performed the role of Independent Person diligently and it is therefore proposed to re-appoint him for a

further four year period with this appointment coming to an end in June 2021.

4. Comments of the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources

- 4.1 Any costs associated with this appointment are likely to be small and are provided for within existing budgets

APPENDICES None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Publication of Background Papers used in the preparation of reports is required

Description of document (or None)

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