



Council AGM	Tuesday, 17 May 2016	Matter for Decision
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Title: Members' Code of Conduct - Appointment of Independent Persons

Author: Anne Court (Director of Services and Monitoring Officer)

1. Introduction

To seek Members' approval of the appointment of Independent Persons as required under Section 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

2. Recommendations

That Council appoints at least one "Independent Person(s)" in accordance with paragraph 3.5 and the Appendix for a term of four (4) years commencing at Annual Council 2016.

3. Information

- 3.1. Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 sets out the provisions in respect of the conduct of Members, which came into force on 1 July 2012.
- 3.2. At its meeting on 26 June 2012 the Council appointed a panel of eight Independent Persons following a joint recruitment process across a number of district council in Leicestershire as well as the Fire and Rescue Authority.
- 3.3. The appointments were made on a 4 year term – it seemed sensible that Council should again be part of a joint re-appointment process as this has worked well since 2012.
- 3.4. The positions were advertised and eight applications were received. All applicants were invited for interview. The interviews were carried out by the Monitoring Officers for Charnwood Borough Council and Harborough District Council and the Deputy Monitoring Officer for Blaby District Council. Six individuals are recommended for appointment, although the Council is only required to appoint one Independent Person.
- 3.5. All of those recommended are eligible, live in Leicestershire and are considered to be suitable to appointment to the role. The District Council has to appoint at least 1 person, however, it is proposed that the Council operates a Panel of Independent Persons to provide greater flexibility, especially if there are any issues regarding a conflict of interest. Therefore, it is open to the Council to appoint at least 1 or as many as it feels appropriate from the attached list.
- 3.6. In 2012, the Council resolved to appoint all those Independent Persons recommended by the Interview Panel other than any candidate who is resident within the Borough as per the list and brief resume attached in the Appendix.

4. Consultation

The Leicestershire Monitoring Officers Group have been involved in the recruitment process for the Independent Persons and the Portfolio holder has been consulted on the recruitment process.

5. Options Considered

The Council is under a legal obligation to appoint at least one Independent Person.

Background Documents:-

Localism Act 2011

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	Independent Persons' expenses can be met through existing budgets.
Legal (AC)	As set out in the report.
Risk (AC)	No significant implications.
Equalities (AC)	No significant implications.