



Full Council (AGM)	Tuesday, 04 May 2021	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Appointment of Independent Persons (2021-2025)**

Report Author(s): **David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer)
Steven Tucker (Democratic & Electoral Services Manager)**

Purpose of Report:	To appoint a panel of Independent Persons (IP's) for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
Report Summary:	In January 2021, the District and Borough Monitoring Officers agreed to a joint recruitment exercise to select new IP's. It was felt that this approach had secured a selection of good quality candidates in the past and would provide resilience by continuing the pool arrangement
Recommendation(s):	That Council appoint the Independent Persons listed in paragraph 2.2 of the report for a term of office of four years until the Annual General Meeting scheduled in May 2025.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Steven Tucker (Democratic & Electoral Services Manager) (0116) 257 2605 steven.tucker@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Not applicable.
Vision and Values:	Accountability (V1) Respect (V2)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	The implications are as set out at paragraphs 1.1 and 2.4 of this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	

Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	Exempt Report entitled 'Standards Committee - Appointment of Independent Persons' to Full Council on 26 June 2012
Appendices:	1. Résumé of Proposed Appointees / IP's (Confidential)

1. Background

- 1.1 On 26 June 2012, Council considered a report which detailed the changes to the role of the Independent Person (IP) introduced to the Standards Regime under the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act"). Under the Act, the IP is involved from the outset in any allegations about conduct under the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 Since then, the Council has been part of an IP pool arrangement with the seven other Leicestershire District and Borough Councils. Appointment to the pool has been via a joint recruitment exercise led by a working group comprising 3 Monitoring Officers.
- 1.3 Appointments were made to the pool in 2012 and 2016 and the terms of office of each IP were extended in 2020 to enable Council's to synchronise their respective terms of office and due to a pause in the recruitment process due to coronavirus (COVID-19) respectively. The term of office of the current pool expires at the Annual Council Meeting (AGM).

2. Recruitment Process

- 2.1 In January 2021, the District and Borough Monitoring Officers agreed to a joint recruitment exercise to select new IP's. It was felt that this approach had secured a selection of good quality candidates in the past and would provide resilience by continuing the pool arrangement.
- 2.2 The recruitment exercise was led by the Monitoring Officers from North West Leicestershire District Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Melton Borough Council. Following a recruitment process and interview, the following six candidates are recommended as appointment as IPs:
 - Mr Michael Gibson
 - Mr Gordon Grimes
 - Mr Richard Gough
 - Mr Michael Pearson
 - Mr Laurence Faulkner
 - Mr Mark Shaw
- 2.3 A brief résumé of each candidate is as set out at **Appendix 1** which are confidential.
- 2.4 In addition, as a result of changes introduced by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, where an authority is considering the dismissal of a Statutory Officer, it is required to appoint a Committee (referred to in the regulations as "the Panel") to consider the proposed dismissal which must include at least 2 "Independent Persons".

- 2.5 When Council approved the amendments to the Constitution in November 2015, to reflect the legislative changes in the dismissal procedure, it decided to appoint the IP's appointed for the purposes of the Standards Regime as Independent Persons for the purposes of the dismissal procedure.
- 2.6 It is recommended that the IP's are appointed until the AGM in May 2025.