

ITEM 9

Standards Committee 8 August 2023

Minute Extract

06/23 Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee

Alistair Davies and Graham Knight left the meeting room.

The Board received a report of the Head of Democracy on Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee.

It was noted that the Council was required to change its councillor complaints process in 2012, as a result of the Localism Act. The Act introduced 'independent persons' to support the Monitoring Officer, councillors accused of breaches and the committee (where applicable) at various stages of the process.

It was reported that the Localism Act required one independent person to be appointed. In practical terms, one independent person was insufficient for the level of support that may be required. It was reported that in Derby, four had previously been appointed for this purpose. To sustain the existing strong pool of non-councillor members during the earlier stages of the process, it was proposed that two independent persons be appointed for three years, to replace the two that resigned at the end of the last municipal year. It was noted that this would bring their appointments in line with the two existing independent persons, with the term for all four due to end in May 2026.

It was reported that following advertising, shortlisting and interviews, two candidates were being recommended to the Standards Committee for referral to Full Council: Alistair Davies and Graham Knight. It was proposed that they join the two existing members, Alan Cameron and Stuart Green, to bring the total number back up to four.

Resolved to request that Full Council approve the appointments of Alistair Davies and Graham Knight as independent persons to the Standards Committee for a three-year term, expiring on 20 May 2026, in line with the existing two independent persons.

Alistair Davies and Graham Knight returned to the meeting room.

MINUTES END