

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9 August 2022

Minute Extract

08/22 Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee

The Board received a report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee.

The report sought the agreement of the Standards Committee to ask Council to approve the appointment of four independent members (referred to as independent persons hereafter) to the Standards Committee for a four-year term.

It was reported that the current four independent persons had brought additional knowledge and expertise to the Standards Committee and played an integral part in the operation of the councillor complaints procedure, and it was proposed that these members be appointed for a further four years.

Members noted that the Council was required to change its councillor complaints process in 2012, as a result of the Localism Act. It was also noted that 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. It was also reported that in practical terms, one independent person was insufficient for the level of support that may be required and that in Derby, four had been appointed for this purpose. Members noted that to sustain the existing strong pool of non-councillor members during the earlier stages of the process, it was proposed that the existing independent persons be appointed for a further four years.

It was reported that while operating as a member of the Standards Committee, the independent member should follow the same code of conduct as elected members.

Members noted that although independent persons attend Standards Committee meetings where they can provide a view on matters, they did not have a voting role.

It was reported that there was a budgeted allowance of £500 for each Independent Member under the Councillors' Allowances and Expenses Scheme.

Resolved to request that Full Council approve the appointments of Alan Cameron, Stuart Green, Peter Purnell and Philip Sunderland as independent persons to the Standards Committee for a four-year term, expiring on 20 May 2026.

Peter Purnell returned to the room.