

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**18 JULY 2012**

### **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with the recommendations coming from the Standards (Independent Persons) Appointment Panel's consideration of applicants for the positions of Independent Person, and two Independent Person reserves.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:-

1. consideration is given to the information within the report.
2. Council appoints Mr Norman Rollo as the Independent Person, and Mr Jeff Bell and Mr Michael Hill as the two Independent Person reserves.
3. the recommended candidates be appointed for an initial term of 15 months, with effect from 1 July 2012, with a review after 12 months to determine whether further terms of office should be recommended.

### **DETAIL**

1. Council agreed that an Independent Person and two reserves should be appointed by the Council as required by Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act").
2. The vacancies for the three positions were published in a variety of ways (Stockton News; press release; website; Town/Parish Councils/Parish Liaison Forum; Libraries, and via the Tees Valley Local Authorities).
3. 7 written applications were received and interviews were held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012.
4. Attached at **Appendix 1** are the Independent Person's role description and duties and responsibilities; selection criteria and notes on eligibility.
5. Also attached at **Appendix 2** is a copy of the relevant minute from the meeting of the Standards (Independent Persons) Appointment Panel held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012.
6. The Panel has recommend to Council an Independent Person and two reserves.
7. It has also recommended that successful candidates be given 15 months terms of office with effect from 1 July 2012 with a review by the Panel after 12 months, in order to assess whether further terms of office should be recommended.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

8. Council has agreed that Independent Persons should receive a co-optees allowance of £650 pa, and that they should be entitled to travel and subsistence at member rates. The costs will be met from existing budgets.

### **Legal**

9. The appointment of at least one Independent Person will satisfy the requirements of the Act.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

10. A re-assessment of risk will be undertaken as part of the review of the Council's new standards arrangements. For now, based on past experience and the measures in place regarding promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, the risk is considered to be low.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

11. Effective corporate and ethical governance is critical to an authority's performance. Probity and high standards are an inherent part of ethical and hence corporate governance. The Act envisages that local authorities have a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

12. It is not considered that an assessment is necessary at this stage.

## **CONSULTATION**

13. Developments relating to the standards regime, including proposals for appointing Independent Persons have previously been reported to and discussed with the Standards Committee, Parish Liaison Forum, Town/Parish Clerks, Cabinet and with Officers and Members of the Council.

**Name of Contact Officer:** David E Bond  
**Post Title:** Director, Law and Democracy  
**Telephone No.:** 01642 527061  
**Email Address:** [david.bond@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:david.bond@stockton.gov.uk)

Background Papers: Appendix 1 and 2  
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific  
Property Implications: None