



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and date of Committee	<b>Council: Wednesday 28 April 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>Agenda Item No. 9</b>
Subject	<b>Appointment of Independent Person</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Michele Mead, Leader of the Council Email: michele.mead@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Claire Hughes – Business Manager (Corporate Responsibility) Tel: 01594 812515; Email: claire.hughes@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	This paper seeks authority from Full Council to appoint Andrew Colling as an Independent Person for the purposes of assisting the Monitoring Officer on matters of councillor conduct.
Annexes	None
Recommendations	(a) That Andrew Colling be appointed as an Independent Person for a period of 4 years  (b) That delegated authority to given to the Monitoring Officer to extend the appointment for further periods of one year at a time if he/she deems appropriate
Corporate priorities	1. Working with communities to meet the current and future needs and aspirations of residents 2. To provide efficient and value for money services, whilst delivering quality front line services
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. The Localism Act 2011 (Section 28) requires a relevant authority to have in place arrangements under which allegations made under the Code of Conduct can be investigated, and under which decisions on allegations of breaches of the Code can be made.
- 1.2. The arrangements must include provision for the appointment of at least one independent person whose views must be sought, and taken into account before any decision is made on an allegation that it has been investigated. The views of the Independent Person may also be sought at other stages of the process and most authorities refer complaints to the Independent Person at an early stage in the process and particularly when the Monitoring Officer is carrying out an initial assessment of the complaint.
- 1.3. There are certain requirements set out in the Act in summary, these are that an Independent Person may not be a current or past (within 5 years):
  - member, co-opted member or officer of the authority,
  - member, co-opted member or officer of a parish council of which the authority is the principal authority, or
  - relative, or close friend, of a person referred to above

## **2. APPOINTMENTS PROCESS**

- 2.1 Following a period of advertisement officers have reviewed CV's and have met with Andrew Colling
- 2.2 Officers feel that Mr Colling demonstrated the appropriate level of integrity and professionalism and therefore recommend to Council that he is appointed with effect from 1 May for a period of 4 years.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. There is no remuneration of Independent Persons, however, they are entitled to claim travel expenses and an allowance of £75 for up to four hours work and £150 for more than four hours work.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The appointment will satisfy the Council's legal obligations under the Localism Act 2011

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. There are no immediate risks considered to be arising from the contents of this report.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 6.1. All appointments have been made in accordance with the Councils Equality and Diversity Policy.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

8.1. N/A

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1. There are no background papers relevant to this report.