

21 November 2019

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

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## **APPOINTMENT TO INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND INDEPENDENT PERSON**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To recommend the appointment of independent persons to join the Independent Remuneration Panel and to support the Monitoring Officer in the assessment of complaints about elected Members.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Stephen J. Dunning is appointed as Independent Person to assist in the assessment of complaints regarding elected member behaviour, for a four year term expiring in October 2023.
2. That Susan Whitfield is appointed to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel for a four year term expiring in October 2023.

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

Not applicable

### **STRATEGIC LINK**

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#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011, requires the District Council to appoint one or more Independent Persons to assist the Authority in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct.
- 1.2 The Independent Person will be consulted on the decision to investigate complaints, including those relating to the District's 71 parish councils, and before it makes a decision on an investigated complaint. The Independent Person may be consulted on other standards matters, including by the member who is subject to an allegation. Currently there is one permanent Independent Person and one vacancy.
- 1.3 Following a selection and interview process with the Monitoring Officer and Councillor Sue Bull as Chairman of the Governance and Resources Committee. Stephen J Dunning is recommended to be appointed to the vacancy for a four year term expiring in October 2023.
- 1.4 Section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000 makes provision in relation to allowances and pensions for members of local authorities. Regulations made under this Section require local authorities to establish and maintain a panel to make

recommendations about the Scheme. The Panel last met in 2016 and is due to conduct a full review of Members Allowances in 2020/21. Two of the existing Independent Panel are willing to continue in that role. A supplementary appointment is recommended and from the shortlisted Panel for Independent Person the appointment of Susan Whitfield is recommended for a term of four years expiring in October 2023. Two member members of the existing panel of three are willing to continue with the forthcoming review.

Susan Whitfield

Independent Member of the IRP

All candidates meet the legal requirements regarding independence.

## **2. RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1 Legal**

All candidates meet the criteria required by law with regard to independent of office. The candidates are referred to Council on the basis of merit. The legal risk is therefore low.

### **2.2 Financial**

Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Independent Person are entitled to claim allowances to cover their time as and when required. These can be contained within the overall budget. The financial risk is therefore low.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

## **4. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Sandra Lamb, Head of Corporate Services. Tel 01629 761281 or email [Sandra.lamb@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:Sandra.lamb@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

## **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **5.1 None**