

From: Alex King – Deputy Leader
Geoff Wild – Director of Governance & Law

To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: Independent Person - New Standards Regime

Summary: In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 the panel of Honorary Alderman has met to interview six shortlisted candidates for the Independent Person for the County Council's new Standards Regime. This report confirms that the panel is due to make a recommendation to appoint the Independent Person for the County Council's approval.

Unrestricted

Introduction

1. Following the July County Council meeting, the Leaders of the three political groups each nominated an Honorary Alderman to sit on an interview panel to select and recommend a suitable candidate as Independent Person for approval by the County Council (as required by the Localism Act 2011).

Recruitment Process

2. (1) From the 17 applications received, six candidates were shortlisted in consultation with the three Group Leaders.

(2) The nominated Honorary Alderman (Mr Newman, Mr Norman and Mrs Wainman) interviewed the six shortlisted candidates on 5 September 2012.

(3) At the time of finalising this report for inclusion with the County Council agenda, a decision had not been made as to the recommended candidate for the Council's consideration and this information will be presented to the County Council as soon as it is available prior to the meeting on 13 September.

(4) The County Council is reminded that in the event of their non-availability or a conflict of interest, the KCC Independent Person will be substituted by the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority Independent Person (and vice versa). The County Council will be advised of the name of the Independent Person for the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority as soon as it is known.

Recommendation

3. The County Council is invited to consider the recommendation of the panel of Honorary Aldermen and appoint an Independent Person for the County Council for a four year term commencing retrospectively on 1 July 2012.