

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 23 June 2016

Subject: Independent Person

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Paper: Discussion with Group Leaders

Future Pathway of Paper: County Council

Summary: In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 the County Council is required to appoint an Independent Person with whom the Monitoring Officer can engage on alleged breaches of the Kent Member Code of Conduct.

Recommendation: The Selection and Member Services Committee is asked to recommend to the County Council the appointment of Michael George as the Independent Person for the Members Code of Conduct for the four year term 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020

1. Introduction

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires that the County Council to appoint an Independent Person to whom the Monitoring Officer can seek advice when he is in receipt of an alleged breach of the Kent Member Code of Conduct.

1.2 The legislation came into operation on 1 July 2012 just a few days after it was published. As a consequence the County Council approved at its meeting in October 2012 the appointment of Mr Michael George retrospectively for a four year term expiring 30 June 2016.

2. Reappointment of Mr George

2.1 Following a discussion with the Leaders of political Groups the Leaders have unanimously agreed that they would be happy to offer Mr George a further term of office as the Independent Person for a the four year period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020.

2.2 Mr George has said verbally that he would be delighted to accept the appointment for a further term of four years.

2.3 The remuneration for this post is a £500 annual retainer (payable over 12 months) plus a daily rate of £100 (pro rata for part of a day) when required to

undertake any duties, and travel expenses at the same rate as for elected Members (currently 45p per mile)

3. Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

The Committee is reminded that the County Council works in co-operation with the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority. Should Mr George not be available or have a conflict of interest the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority Independent Person Mrs Janet Waghorn would act. The Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority have reappointed Mrs Waghorn for a further four years.

4. Recommendation

The Selection and Member Services Committee is asked to recommend to the County Council the appointment of Michael George as the Independent Person for the Member Code of Conduct for the four year term 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020.

Report Author:

Paul Wickenden
Democratic Services Manager (Members)

[Tel:03000 416836](tel:03000416836)

Background documents - none