

By: Ben Watts, Monitoring Officer
To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 27 February 2020
Subject: Independent Person (Standards)
Classification: Unrestricted
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 2020 to 30 June 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires that the County Council appoint an Independent Person to whom the Monitoring Officer can seek advice when they are 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. Therefore, 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. In July 2016, following the recommendation of the Selection and Member Services Committee and consultation with Group Leaders, County Council agreed to reappoint Mr George to a further four-year term.

2. Reappointment of Mr George

2.1 It is proposed that, subject to the agreement of the Leaders of all the Political Groups, this Committee recommend that County Council reappoint Mr George to a further term of office as the Independent Person. This four-year period will run from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024.

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

3.1 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 would act. The Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority are due to appoint a new Independent Person shortly with a parallel four-year term beginning 1 July 2020.

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 2020 to 30 June 2024.

Background Documents

None

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