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Purpose: For Decision

Committee report

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	20 NOVEMBER 2019
Title	THE APPOINTMENT OF A DESIGNATED INDEPENDENT PERSON
Report of	MONITORING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council is required to appoint at least one Designated Independent Person (DIP) who may be consulted by the Monitoring Officer and elected members in relation to the members code of conduct arrangements. When considering complaints against members, the Monitoring Officer must consult with a DIP before a complaint is referred for investigation; in all other cases the Monitoring Officer may consult a DIP. Members subject to a complaint can also consult a DIP. Given the potential for conflicts of interest and/or delays due to holidays or sickness the council wishes to retain two DIPs.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council previously appointed two DIP's. One DIP recently chose to stand down from this position and as such the council currently only has one DIP appointed. The current DIP has also indicated a wish to step down soon after serving in this position for over 7 years.
3. After a recent advertisement exercise, two applications were received, and interviews held with the previous Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer. Both applicants were considered suitable for appointment, but of the two it was felt that John Matthews would make the most appropriate appointment.
4. The appointment of a DIP can only be made by the Full Council and the above mentioned will be appointed for a four-year period.
5. DIPs must be independent of the Council (including the town and parish councils) and cannot have been members of either councils during the last five years.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

6. A DIP receives an annual allowance of £301.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Under the Localism Act 2011, and subsequent regulations, it is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint at least one DIP. The arrangements set out in this report meet the legal requirements.

OPTIONS

8. Option 1: That John Matthews is appointed as a Designated Independent Person for a period of four years.
9. Option 2: To appoint a different Designated Independent Person.

RISK MANAGEMENT

10. Appointment to this position will reduce the risk of any challenge being successfully made to our procedure for dealing with complaints against members under the new arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

11. Option 1 - That John Matthews is appointed as a Designated Independent Person for a period of four years.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

12. None.

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