

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	COUNCIL	18 MARCH 2024	10
STANDARDS INDEPENDENT PERSONS			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider an extension of the term of office for the Independent Persons (IP) appointed by the Council to support the standards framework.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to a recommendation to the council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011, to extend the appointment of Mrs Helen Broughton, Mr Peter Clements and Mr Brian Horrocks as Independent Persons until 28 February 2027.

REPORT

- The role of Independent Person (IP) is required in law as part of the standards process in dealing with allegations of member misconduct. The Council has three IP's which are a shared resource with Blackpool Council fulfilling this statutory role on behalf of both councils..
- All three of the current IP's were recruited in line with the following criteria:
 - no formal political party affiliation*
 - not be an employee of or an elected member of Fylde or Blackpool Councils*
 - not a close friend or relative of an elected member of Fylde or Blackpool Councils*
- Each IP has served in the role for varying lengths of time during which they have supported the Council (and Blackpool Council) in dealing with matters under the standards framework, as well as helping to develop standards codes, protocols and processes. They also have a statutory role in disciplinary action in relation to Chief Officers.

4. Their term of office was extended by Council in February 2021 and the three IP's have indicated their willingness to serve a further term and it is recommended that a further three-year extension is agreed. A similar recommendation has also been considered by Blackpool Council who have approved the same.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The Members' Allowances Scheme provides for special responsibility allowance for Independent Persons.
Legal	Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 states the requirement to appoint at least one Independent Person for standards matters.
Community Safety	None associated with this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None associated with this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None associated with this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no significant risk management considerations other than not having sufficient members to serve as part of the standards process.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
<p>Council – 15 February 2021 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the appointment of Mr Peter Clements to the role of Independent Person; Agree the appoint of Mr Peter Clements, Mr Brian Horrocks and Mrs Helen Broughton as statutory Independent Persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011, for a period of 3 years until 31 March 2024; and Confirm the continuation of the sharing arrangement with Blackpool Council for the use of the Independent Persons.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Manning	tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk	7 February 2024