



**Appointment of Independent Person and Independent Members to the Audit and Standards Committee**

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**Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive**

**Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Council is asked to approve the appointment of an Independent Person for standards of conduct issues affecting Council and Parish Council Members and three Independent Members to the Audit and Standards Committee.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Council on 19 July 2012 appointed Anthony Atkinson as its Independent Person for standards of conduct issues affecting Council and Parish Council Members for a three year period. Council subsequently agreed to extend this appointment for a further two years. As Mr Atkinson's term of office was due to expire a recruitment process was undertaken. The opportunity was also taken to carry out a similar process for the Independent Member positions on the Audit and Standards Committee.
3. A Panel consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, together with the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Deputy Strategic Director, Corporate Resources interviewed applicants for these positions on 27 July and 3 August 2007.
4. Following the recruitment processes the Panel identified Mr Atkinson as the most suitable person for the Independent Person position. The Panel also agreed that two of the existing Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee, Bryn Jones and George Clark, should re-appointed to the positions and that a new Independent Member, Stuart Bell, should be appointed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. Council is recommended to approve:
  - (i) The re-appointment of Anthony Atkinson as the Independent Person for standards of conduct issues for a further period of four years.
  - (ii) The re-appointment of Bryn Jones and George Clark as Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee for a further period of four years and the appointment of Stuart Bell to the other Independent Member position for the same period.