



COUNCIL MEETING

18 November 2021

Appointment of Independent Members to the Audit and Standards Committee

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

2. The Council on 16 September 2021 was advised that the terms of office of the current Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee and the Independent Person for standards of conduct issues were due to end on 20 September 2021.
3. A recruitment process had been undertaken for these positions and applications received. In order to allow applicants to be given sufficient notice of interviews and time to prepare for them, Council agreed that the current terms of office be extended until the next Council meeting on 18 November 2021.
4. A Panel consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, together with the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Service Director, Financial Management interviewed applicants for the Independent Member positions on 3 and 8 November 2021.
5. The Panel agreed that one of the existing Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee, Stuart Bell, should re-appointed to that position and that two new members, Laura Bowler and Ian Dormer, should be appointed to the remaining two positions.
6. Further consideration is being given to the recruitment process for the Independent Person for standards of conduct issues. Therefore, it is proposed that the current appointment should continue until 27 January 2022 to allow the recruitment process to be completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Council is recommended to approve:
 - (i) The re-appointment of Stuart Bell as an Independent Member of the Audit and Standards Committee for a further period of four years and

the appointment of Laura Bowler and Ian Dormer to the other Independent Member positions for the same period.

- (ii) The extension of the term of office of the Independent Person for standards of conduct issues affecting Council and Parish Council Members to 27 January 2022.