



COUNCIL MEETING

27 January 2022

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. Council agreed to extend these appointments to 27 January 2022.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 24 March 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. 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 24 March 2022.