

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

A.3 INDEPENDENT PERSON RECRUITMENT

(Report prepared by Lisa Hastings)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable the Standards Committee the opportunity to comment on the proposed Independent Person Recruitment Pack prepared by the Monitoring Officer and approve membership and delegations of the Interview Panel for recommending to Council appointment of the successful candidates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the new Standards Committee Framework adopted by the Council in November 2013, authority was delegated to the Monitoring Officer to bring about the revised arrangements with regard to the Independent Persons with effect from the commencement of the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

During the review consultation on the new arrangements, members suggested making enquires with other local authorities whether there was potential to share Independent Persons, due to the scope of the role changing from the previous Independent Member and if there was any interest outside of the District.

In accordance with this feedback, the Monitoring Officer contacted both Essex and Suffolk County Council's requesting whether their Independent Persons would be interested in applying for the role at Tendring District Council. So far, two approaches have been received however any applications should still be considered through an open and transparent process and involving Members. It is therefore proposed that the potential candidates complete the attached Recruitment Pack and a Panel of three members of the Standards Committee, Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer is convened to conduct the interviews, recommending appointment of any successful candidate to Annual Council on 6th May 2014.

The Council has decided that the number of Independent Persons required for the new Standards Framework is three, therefore the role should be advertised on the Council website and to engage more interest could be supported by a press release.

In the event that both of the approaches received so far are successful, but no further candidates are forthcoming or successful, it is proposed that the appointment of the current existing Independent Person is extended until May 2015. Under the new arrangements, the Monitoring Officer considers that the relationship with the existing Independent Person is both working well and a vast improvement to the previous situation and would recommend an extension of the term until May 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (i) The Standards Committee endorses the Independent Person Recruitment Pack.**
- (ii) Membership of the Interview Panel will consist of three members of the Standards Committee (to be agreed at the meeting) together with the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer.**
- (iii) Authority is delegated to the Panel to make recommendations to Annual Council on 6th May 2014 regarding the appointment of the Independent Persons including term of office and extending an existing appointment, if appropriate to do so and any related matters.**

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Independent Person Recruitment Pack**