

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	COUNCIL	Item 7	Page 1 of 2
Report Originator	Statutory Officers (Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer)	Ref No:	
Wards Affected	All	14 th December 2016	
Title	STANDARDS – APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend that the Council extends the appointment of Mr Mike Sawford as Independent Person for a further term of up to two years.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 22 January 2013 the Council appointed Mr Mike Sawford as its Independent Person (IP) for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011. The appointment was for an initial period of twelve months with delegated authority given to Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of Standards to extend the appointment for a further three years. The appointment has been extended each year and is due to expire in January 2017.
- 2.2 Under the new Standards Regime introduced by The Localism Act there is a statutory requirement to appoint at least one IP. The IP's views must be sought and taken into account by the Council before a decision is made on an allegation that it has decided to investigate under the Code of Conduct complaints process. Their views may also be sought on other matters and by Members who are the subject of an allegation.
- 2.3 The level of complaints against Borough Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors has been very low. In the first three years of his term there were no complaints which required the services of the IP. In the current year four complaints have been referred to the IP under the "Arrangements for dealing with complaints". Mr Sawford has regularly attended meetings of the Standards Advisory Committee and Full Council and training sessions on the standards regime.
- 2.4. The role of IP was advertised on the Council's website, however, there has been no interest shown and no applications were received. It is, therefore, recommended that Council extend the appointment of Mr Mike Sawford for a minimum of a further twelve months. This will allow time to review the Standards regime and also consider the possibility of sharing IP's as is the practice in other council's in Northamptonshire and surrounding counties. .
- 2.5. Mr Sawford has confirmed that he is willing to continue act as the Independent Person. The Localism Act requires the appointment to be made by Full Council and the recommendation is therefore to appoint Mr Sawford.

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3. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Independent Person will receive the equivalent payment to the Independent Members of the Standards Advisory Committee.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is required to appoint an Independent Person to comply with the Localism Act 2011

5. RECOMMENDATION

- (i) To extend the appoint of Mr Mike Sawford as Independent Person for Kettering Borough Council for a further term of 12 months; and
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee, to extend the appointment for up to a further twelve months.

Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports: Council
Ref: Minute No. 12.C.25
Date: 4th July 2012
Council
22.1.13
Minute No. 12.C.74