

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	COUNCIL	Item 11	Page 1 of 2
Report Originator	Statutory Officers (Managing Director, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer)	<i>Work Programme Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	25 th April 2018	
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 term of two years.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 22nd January 2013 the Council appointed Mr Mike Sawford as its Independent Person (IP) for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011. Delegated authority was given to the then Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee, to extend the appointment for a further three years.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 14th December 2016, Council resolved to extend the appointment of Mr Mike Sawford as Independent Person for Kettering Borough Council for a further term of 12 months and 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.
- 2.3 The appointment was subsequently extended until 30th April 2018 under delegated powers when the current term of office expired in January this year.
- 2.4 Under the 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.
- 2.5 The level of complaints against Borough Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors has been very low. Mr Sawford has regularly attended meetings of the Standards Advisory Committee and Full Council and training sessions on the standards regime.
- 2.6 The role of IP was advertised on the Council's website in 2016. However, there was no interest shown and no applications were received. It is, therefore, recommended that Council approve the appointment of Mr Mike Sawford for a further two years.

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2.7 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.

3. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Independent Person receives 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

That Mr Mike Sawford be appointed as the Council's Independent Person for a period of two years commencing on 1st May 2018.

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

Council
14.12.16
Minute No. 16.12.73