

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

<b>Committee</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	Item 8	Page 1 of 2
<b>Report Originator</b>	Statutory Officers (Managing Director, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer)	<i>Work Programme Ref No:</i>	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	
<b>Title</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend that the Council extends the appointment of Mr Mike Sawford as Independent Person until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### 2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013, the Council appointed Mr Mike Sawford as its Independent Person 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 The appointment was subsequently extended twice by Council, in 2016 and 2018, until 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 when the current term of office expires.
- 2.3 Under the Standards regime introduced by The Localism Act there is a statutory requirement to appoint at least one Independent Person. The Independent Person'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.
- 2.4 The level of complaints against Borough Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors has been relatively low. Mr Sawford has regularly attended meetings of the Standards Advisory Committee and Full Council and training sessions on the Standards regime.
- 2.5 The role of Independent Person 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 extend the appointment of Mr Mike Sawford until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 2.6 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 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. **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### 6. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Mr Mike Sawford be appointed as the Council's Independent Person until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

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#### 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.C.73

Council  
25.4.18  
Minute No. 17.C.89