

Council – 17th November 2014

Localism Act 2011 – Appointment of independent person to Standards Committee

1. Summary of report

To request the Council to agree to the appointment of a second independent member person to the Standards Committee.

2. Recommendations

That Mr. A. Green be appointed an independent person under the Council's standards regime.

3. Report detail

3.1 The Localism Act 2011 was enacted on 15th November 2011 and amongst its provisions was the repeal of the existing standards regime as set out in the Local Government Act 2000. This included amongst other changes, the abolition of the Standards Board for England and the existing arrangements for local investigation and determination of complaints and the requirement for independent members on Standards Committees.

3.2 The Act requires the authority to have in place arrangements under which allegations of a breach of the Code can be investigated and decisions made in respect of such allegations. The arrangements require the authority to appoint at least one independent person, whose views are to be sought and taken into account by the authority before it makes its decision on an allegation that it has decided to investigate. The views of the independent person may be sought by a member if that member's behaviour is the subject of an allegation.

3.3. The independent person subject to appointment by the Council has been selected through a process of public advertisement, application and interview by the Monitoring Officer. The appointment is for an unspecified term.

4. Financial implications

None arising from this report.

5. Equality implications

Arrangements for dealing with complaints will ensure that complaints are investigated impartially and fairly, which is to be benefit of both the complainant and elected member or co-opted member.

Background papers

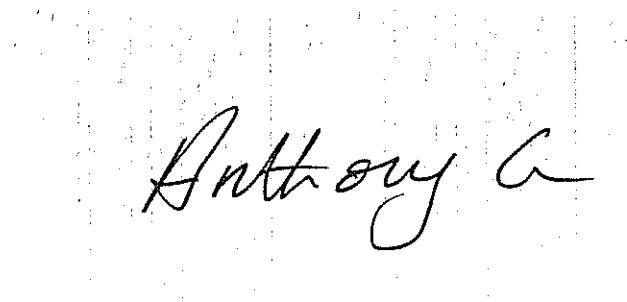
Published

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A.", is centered on a light gray grid background.

Signed:

Head of Legal and Democratic Services and
Monitoring Officer

Date: 7th November 2014