

REPORT OF THE
Conduct Advisory Panel
PART I

1. LOCALISM ACT 2011 – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

- 1.1 By virtue of Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act the County Council is required to appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views must be sought and taken into account before any decision is made on any allegation which the County Council has decided to investigate, and whose views may be sought by the County Council in relation to an allegation in any other circumstances, or by a Member or Co-opted Member of the County Council against whom an allegation has been made. In addition, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, in the case of the proposed dismissal of the Head of Paid Services, Chief Financial officer or the Monitoring Officer, the County Council is required to appoint a Panel comprised of at least two Independent Persons whose views are required to be taken into account before dismissal of one of these Officers.
- 1.2 The Localism Act requires that any vacancy for an Independent Person must be advertised and that there should be a formal recruitment process. Approval of the appointment of an Independent Person is required to be done by full Council.
- 1.3 The County Council at its meeting on 17 May 2012 delegated authority to the Conduct Advisory Panel to assist in the recruitment of an Independent Person and to make recommendations to the County Council on any such appointment.
- 1.4 A recruitment exercise in June led to the Conduct Advisory Panel recommending two applicants for the position of Independent Person for appointment by the County Council at its 30 September meeting. Members of the Conduct Advisory Panel were however of the view that a further recruitment exercise should be undertaken to expand the pool of Independent Member's and this was duly carried out. The Conduct Advisory Panel considered short-listed applicants on 13 October 2021, following the placing of advertisements inviting interested persons with relevant backgrounds to come forward.
- 1.5 After full and detailed consideration, the Conduct Advisory Panel considered that three appointments be made: Julie Byrom, Fasil Bhatti and Becky Attwood.
- 1.6 The County Council's Members' Allowances Scheme makes provision for a basic allowance in the sum of £723 per annum plus expenses.
- 1.7 The term of office for these appointments will expire on 31 July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the County Council approve the appointment of Julie Byrom, Fasil Bhatti and Becky Attwood as Independent Persons for a four-year period of office expiring on 31 July 2025.