

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2016 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bradley (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Bowman, Ms Franklin, Morton (as substitute for Councillor Mrs Mallinson), McDevitt (as substitute for Councillor Osgood), Mrs Parsons and Stothard

OFFICERS: Director of Governance

ST.01/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Mallinson and Councillor Osgood.

ST.02/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

ST.03/16 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Director of Governance submitted report GD.16/16 regarding the appointment of the Council's Independent Person.

The Director of Governance reminded the Committee that the Localism Act 2011 required that the Council had at least one Independent Person (IP) to advise it in relation to Standards Matters (and other matters relating to any proposed dismissal of a statutory Chief Officer.)

Following an advertisement and full recruitment process the Council , on 16 July 2013, appointed Ms Jane Salmon (now Elliott) for a period until 30 June 2016 and Mr Keith Thomas until 30 June 2017 as the Council's Independent Persons.

Following changes to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules from May 2015 the Independent Person must be invited to be considered for appointment to any Panel which may be set up to deal with any disciplinary cases involving the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer. Accordingly the Council's IPs were co-opted onto the Employment Panel.

Nothing had altered Ms Elliott's suitability for the post of IP since her appointment and it was recommended that her appointment be continued for a four year period at which time it could be reviewed again. If the Council did not continue with Ms Elliott's appointment it would be necessary to advertise for a new IP and it was likely that, due to her co-option as a member of the Employment Panel, she would not be able to apply. This was a quirk of the legislation unforeseen by the legislative draftsman.

RESOLVED – That the Standards Committee recommend to Council that it continue the appointment of Jane Elliott as an Independent Person until a review date of 30 June 2020.

(Meeting ended at 10.05am)