

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.10</b>	
<b>COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>24 JANUARY 2013</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON</b>

**1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY**

The Council is obliged to appoint an Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011 to assist the Conduct Committee in their work.

- 2. KEY ISSUES**
- Further to the changes to the member conduct framework under the Localism Act 2011 the Council is obliged to appoint at least one Independent Person.
  - Following a recruitment process and Member-led Panel, the Conduct Committee has interviewed candidates for this role; and that of a deputy.
  - The Conduct Committee recommends that the following appointments be made:
    - i. Anne Hay as the Lead Independent Person
    - ii. Claire Hawden-Beal as the Deputy Independent Person

**3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. That Council appoints Anne Hay and Claire Hawden-Beal as recommended by the Conduct Committee.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan Reference No.</b> (if applicable)	NA
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Fred Yeulett, Chairman of the Conduct Committee
<b>Report Originator</b>	Alan Pain, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Ian Hunt, Chief Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Alan Pain, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Ian Hunt, Chief Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	Council Paper – Conduct committee arrangements

## 1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to appoint an Independent Person to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst its elected members and town and parish councillors.

The Independent Person will be available to be consulted before the Conduct Committee makes a decision on an investigated complaint. The Independent Person may be consulted on other conduct matters, including by the member who is subject to an allegation.

It is recommended that the Council appoints one lead Independent Person (who will normally be contacted by the Council) and a deputy Independent Person, (who will be contacted if the lead is unable to act, due to absence or other reason). This latter situation may occur if the lead believes for any reason that they have a conflict relating to the complaint, or will be absent due to illness or leave.

The Lead Independent person will receive an annual payment of £1000 and the Deputy will receive a payment of £500.

Independent persons must not during the previous 5 years have been a member or officer of Fenland District Council; be a close friend of either a member or officer of Fenland District Council or a current Officer or Member of any other relevant authority (this includes parish, district, county and unitary councils and Police and Fire Authorities).

## 2. CONSIDERATIONS

Following a recruitment process the Conduct Committee Panel has interviewed 5 individuals following 20 applications.

The Panel, Chaired by Cllr Fred Yeulett, recommends the following individuals:

- **Anne Hay** as the Lead Independent Person. Anne, from Chatteris, is a recently retired Financial Accountant, having worked with a Fenland-based company. She has also been involved in a number of local community groups and support programmes.
- **Claire Hawden-Beal** as the Deputy Independent Person. Claire, from March, is an experienced solicitor, Magistrates legal advisor and Tribunal Judge.