



Standards Committee

Date **Wednesday 10 May 2023**
Time **1.30 pm**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement.**

1. Apologies for Absence
3. Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards
Committee (Pages 3 - 4)

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
5 May 2023

To: The Members of the Standards Committee

Councillors M Abley, J Atkinson, L Maddison, L Mavin, J Nicholson,
A Savory, G Smith, T Smith, T Stubbs, F Tinsley and C Varty

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Appendix 2

Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee

Interview Process and Recommendations

1. As set out at paragraph 13 of the main report, the Chair and Vice-Chair interviewed the shortlisted candidates on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 May 2023 (one interview had to be re-arranged due to a technical issue).
2. The candidates were asked a series of questions to test their suitability for the role against the criteria set out in the person specification and each had a general discussion about local government ethical standards.
3. The Panel decided to recommend:
 - i) Chris Hugill – a retired solicitor and former Compliance Officer of Legal Practice with experience of working with local authorities.
 - ii) David Rogers – works in Compliance, Operational risks and surveillance investigations for a major bank.
 - iii) Steven Winder – a Commercial Sales Manager for a manufacturing company, with experience of introducing, promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical behaviours and conduct.
4. All three candidates demonstrated that they met the criteria for the role, had a good understanding of the role and an enthusiasm to support the Standards Committee in upholding high ethical standards.
5. The Committee will note that at its last meeting it agreed to the recruitment exercise with a view to appointing two new Independent Persons. However, in view of the calibre of the applicants, the different skills, experience and approach that they would bring to the role, the Panel considered that it would be advantageous to appoint three new Independent Persons. This would also provide additional resilience for the Monitoring Officer when dealing with complaints.
6. Currently, it is Council's responsibility to appoint the Independent Persons. At the annual meeting of Council on 24 May 2023, Council will be asked to delegate this responsibility to the Standards Committee as part of the annual review of the Constitution. The Committee is asked to recommend to Council the appointment of the above candidates as Independent Persons at its meeting in June 2023. However, if Council agrees to delegate responsibility to the Committee, a further report will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee to approve the appointments for a 2-year term.

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