



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

14 JUNE 2019

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

REPORT OF CLERK

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Fire Authority on the outcome of the Appointments Panel on 26 April 2019 and the appointment of new Independent Persons.

BACKGROUND

2. The Localism Act 2011 provides the framework intended to secure high standards of conduct in public office, and it requires the appointment, by the Authority, of at least one independent person.
3. The independent person must be consulted by the Authority and their views taken into account before it makes a finding as to whether a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct or decides an action to be taken in respect to that member. They may also be consulted by the Authority in respect of a complaint at any other stage and, they may be consulted by a member of the Authority against whom the complaint has been made.
4. At its meeting on 18 December 2018, the Authority authorised the recruitment of up to two independent persons and delegated responsibility for the process and appointments to the Clerk and the Appointments Panel.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

5. The positions were advertised on social media and on the Authority's website with a closing date of 22 March 2019. Seven applications were received, four candidates were shortlisted and invited to interview on 26 April 2019. One candidate subsequently withdrew and so three candidates were interviewed.
6. The interviews were conducted by the Appointments Panel with the Clerk and HR Advisor to the Authority in attendance. Out of the three candidates, the Panel decided to appoint Nyama Johnson and Andrew Simpson, subject to the Clerk receiving satisfactory references. The Clerk has received satisfactory references for both candidates and has written to them to confirm their appointments for a 4-year term, expiring on 30 April 2023. The Clerk is also arranging for the new Independent Persons to complete Induction Training, which will include introducing them to members of the Authority at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION

7. Members are recommended to:
 - i) Note the outcome of the Appointments Panel held on 30 April 2019; and

- ii) Request that the Chair, on behalf of the Authority, writes to the outgoing Independent Person to thank them for their contribution during their term of office.

H. Lynch
Clerk to Combined Fire Authority