

Would you like to play a key role in ensuring high standards of conduct in Local Government?

We are looking to appoint two Independent Persons to help Durham County Council and Town/Parish Councils across the County maintain high ethical standards.

The role of Independent Person is an essential part of the Council's Ethical Governance Framework. They are required to support the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee in their work to uphold the standards of conduct required of members in carrying out their duties.

The Independent Person may be consulted by the Council's Monitoring Officer when she is considering complaints against Councillors or co-opted Members. They may also be consulted by the Councillors who is the subject of a complaint.

The Standards Committee must seek the views of an Independent Person before it takes a decision on a complaint against a Councillor which is being investigated and any proposal to dismiss one of the Council's statutory officers.

The successful candidates will be expected to attend at least two meetings of the Standards Committee a year and be available by telephone and email for consultation on complaints. There is also a requirement to attend training periodically to ensure continuing competence for the role. Induction training will also be provided.

The role is voluntary and unpaid. However, travelling and subsistence allowances are payable for attending meetings and training is provided. The term of office will be 2 years from the date of appointment.

More information on the work of the Standards Committee can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/ethicalstandards

If you:

- have a keen interest in standards in public life
- want to serve the local community and uphold democracy
- can demonstrate high standards of personal integrity
- have the ability to be objective, independent and impartial
- have direct experience of implementing and upholding standards and/or dealing with complaints and customer care issues

and are interested in the role application forms are available from Jill Errington (Senior Committee Officer) by emailing jill.errington@durham.gov.uk or calling 03000 269 703. For an informal discussion about the role contact Helen Lynch (Head of Legal & Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer) helen.lynch@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 269732.

To ensure the independence of the role, anyone who is or has been within the last five years a member, co-opted member or an officer of Durham County Council or a Town/Parish Council within County Durham or is a relative or close friend of any

member or officer of the County Council or a Town/Parish Council is not eligible to apply.

Closing date for applications: 17 April 2023

Interviews will take place week commencing 1 May 2023