

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

11 JULY 2017

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Part 1 - Public

For decision

1 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This supplementary report updates Members on the outcome of the recruitment process for the role of Independent Person.

1.1.2 The Council received 6 applications in response to the advertisement, with interviews of the shortlisted candidates taking place on 7 July 2017. The interview panel was comprised of the Chairman and 2 Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Standards Committee, the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and the Monitoring Officer.

1.1.3 Details of the 2 applicants to whom it is proposed to offer the position of Independent Person are set out below.

Clive Grenyer

1.1.4 Mr Grenyer is a retired Solicitor, with many years' experience in various tiers of government. He has previously worked for the London Borough of Southwark (as Borough Solicitor), the Association of County Councils and as Draftsman/ Legislative Counsel for the Cayman Islands Government, the States of Jersey, the Government of Antigua & Barbuda and the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission.

David Mercier

1.1.5 Mr Mercier holds a degree in law, together with a postgraduate Diploma in Professional & Legal Skills (BVC) and a Masters Degree in Social Policy and Criminology. He is currently employed as a Parliamentary Assistant to Greg Clark MP and has previous experience of working for a local authority, having worked for Harrow Council for 7 years as a Political Assistant (a politically restricted post). Mr Mercier has also previously held the position of parish councillor with his local parish council.

1.1.6 Both Mr Grenyer and Mr Mercier are residents of the Borough.

1.2 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.2.1 The Independent Person receives an annual allowance for performance of their role, currently £513 pa.

1.3 Risk Assessment

- 1.3.1 It is important that a robust system exists for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct. The absence of such a framework will lower public confidence in the democratic process.
- 1.3.2 The role of 'Independent Person' is an important element of the standards regime, and will provide independent advice to the Council and Members in connection with allegations of misconduct.

1.4 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.4.1 None arising from this report.

1.5 Recommendations

- 1.5.1 That Mr Clive Grenyer & Mr David Mercier are appointed as Independent Persons under s28 of the Localism Act 2011, for a term expiring on 30 June 2022.

contact: Adrian Stanfield

Background Papers: