

Report of the Monitoring Officer

**Appointment of Independent Person**

**Summary**

1. This report updates Members on progress in recruiting independent persons to support the standards function.

**Background**

2. The Council has agreed to appoint two independent persons who will be consulted when decisions are being made in respect of the handling of standards complaints. An Appointments Panel met in October and proposes to recommend the appointment of Mr. David Laverick to fill one of those roles. Mr. Laverick is currently the Principal Judge of that part of the First Tier Tribunal which deals with local government standards. His former roles have included being a local authority chief officer, a director of the Local Government Ombudsman and the Pensions Ombudsman. He has been a York resident for 37 years.
3. Disappointingly the Council received only two other applications meeting the essential criteria. The Panel felt that efforts should be made to see whether more applications could be secured before making a further recommendation.
4. Until a full complement of independent persons has been appointed the existing former independent members have all indicated a willingness to continue to act. The Committee is invited to consider whether this would be appropriate.

**Recommendations**

4. Members are recommended to:

- 1) Note and endorse the recommendation for appointment as an independent person of Mr.David Laverick.
- 2) Consider the position of the current interim independent persons
- 3) To advise on ways of securing further interest in and applications for the position.

Reason: To ensure that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place for handling complaints against Members.

### Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**

**Date** 18/10/12

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

None