

Agenda Item No:	<b>5</b>	
Committee:	<b>Conduct Committee</b>	
Date:	<b>16 July 2015</b>	
Report Title:	<b>Appointment of Independent Person</b>	

## **1 Purpose / Summary**

The Council is obliged to appoint an Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011 to assist the Conduct Committee in their work.

## **2 Key issues**

- Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to appoint an Independent Person to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst its elected members and town and parish councillors.
- On 24 January 2013, Council decided to appoint one Independent Person and a Deputy Independent Person. The Deputy Independent Person may be called upon if the lead believes for any reason that they have a conflict relating to the complaint, or will be absent due to illness or leave. The provision of a Deputy Independent Person has been invaluable whilst the Independent Person post has been vacant.
- The Independent Person will be available to be consulted before the Conduct Committee makes a decision on a complaint. The Independent Person may also be consulted on other conduct matters, including by the Councillor who is subject to an allegation and the complainant.
- The Independent Person will receive an annual payment of £1000, subject to the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel which reports to Council in November 2015.
- Independent persons must not during the previous 5 years have been a member or officer of Fenland District Council or be a close friend of either a member or officer of Fenland District Council.
- Following a recruitment process and Member-led Panel, the Conduct Committee panel has interviewed 4 candidates for this role following 16 applications.
- Following the interview process, the Conduct Committee Panel recommends that Tina Gambell is appointed as Independent Person.
- Tina, from Wisbech, is currently PA to the Headteacher at a local secondary school. Having moved to Wisbech three years ago, Tina has taken a keen interest in integrating herself within the local community including volunteering for a local organisation. Tina has had experience of holding a similar position of Independent Person dealing with Social Services Department complaints in another area.

## **3 Recommendations**

- To note this report will be considered by Council on 23/7/15 to appoint Tina Gambell as the Council's Independent Person.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan Reference</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Samantha Hoy, Chairman of Conduct Committee Cllr Chris Boden, Vice-Chairman of Conduct Committee
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Carol Pilson, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Tom Lewis, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Carol Pilson, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Tom Lewis, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	