

Agenda Item No:	<b>15</b>	
Committee:	<b>Council</b>	
Date:	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>	
Report Title:	<b>Appointment of Independent Person</b>	

## 1. Purpose / Summary

The Council must appoint an Independent Person to assist the Conduct Committee in determining Member Conduct complaints as set out within the Localism Act 2011.

## 2. Key issues

The Council has a vacancy for the position of Independent Person since Tina Gambell resigned from her position. The Deputy Independent Person, Claire Hawden-Beal has supported the Council during the period in which we have carried a vacancy. The Council has two Independent Persons to ensure business continuity in the event of a resignation or a conflict of interest.

The Council advertised the position of Independent Person on the Council's website, in the local press and in a recruitment supplement. We received a total of 6 applications for the role.

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 review of the application form and an interview, the interview panel consisting of the Chairman of Conduct Committee, Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer unanimously agreed Stuart Webster would be the panel's recommendation to Conduct Committee and Council.

Stuart Webster lives near St Ives and is a newly retired Police Officer from the Metropolitan Police Service following 30 years' service within which he has held a range of different roles. Positive references from this employment have been returned. Following his retirement, Stuart is keen to continue to serve the community and utilise his skills from within his previous roles. Stuart displayed the required skills and aptitude as set out within the person specification for the role and is recommended to be appointed by Members to undergo an induction and training.

## Recommendations

To appoint Stuart Webster as the Council's Independent Person as recommended by the Conduct Committee.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan Reference</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Councillor David Topgood, Chairman of Conduct Committee
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Carol Pilson, Monitoring Officer Amy Brown, Deputy Monitoring Officer

<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Carol Pilson, Monitoring Officer Amy Brown, Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	Conduct Committee 2/7/19; Independent Person