

**Meeting:** Combined Fire Authority**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017**Subject:** Appointment of Independent Persons**Report by:** The Monitoring Officer**Author:** Lauren Haslam (Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer)**For:** Decision

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) regarding the appointment of Independent Persons to support the member conduct complaints process as required under section 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and to seek approval of the term of their appointment.

## **2. Recommendations**

The CFA is asked to:

- a) Note the continued appointment of those seven Independent Persons appointed by the CFA in June 2012 detailed in paragraph 1.4 of this report;
- b) Agree that the term of appointment for the seven Independent Persons comes to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## **3. Executive Summary**

In 2012 the CFA collaborated with six Councils in Leicestershire on the appointment of Independent Persons to support future arrangements for dealing with standards issues. Those appointed have recently been contacted to confirm whether or not they are able to continue to act in this capacity and consideration given to setting the term of their appointment in line with other authorities.

## **4. Report Detail**

- 4.1 The Localism Act 2011 sets out provisions regarding the conduct of members which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. It is a requirement under this Act that the CFA appoint at least one independent person whose views must be sought and taken into account by the Authority before it makes a decision on any allegation made about a member or co-opted member.

- 4.2 In May 2012 the CFA undertook a joint recruitment exercise with several district councils in Leicestershire (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Blaby District Council, Harborough District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council) to procure the joint appointment of a pool of independent persons. The position was publicly advertised and an interview process undertaken.
- 4.3 At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the CFA appointed eight independent persons. However, the CFA did not stipulate the term of their appointment unlike other authorities which appointed them for a term of four years (i.e. expiring in 2016). The CFA has not therefore had to undertake a full recruitment process, but it was considered appropriate that those appointed in 2012 be contacted to confirm whether or not they were willing and able to continue to act in this role.
- 4.4 The following seven independent persons have confirmed that they will continue in the role of independent person for the CFA.
- (i) Gordon Grimes
  - (ii) Michael Pearson
  - (iii) David Lamb
  - (iv) Richard Gough
  - (v) Christine Howell
  - (vi) Desmond Henderson
  - (vii) Lee Hughes OBE
- 4.5 To bring the CFA in line with other authorities, it is recommended that a term of appointment be agreed for the above independent persons and it is proposed that this be set for a term expiring on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 4.6 All of the above independent persons were invited to, and four were able to attend a training course held by Leicestershire County Council for its own recently appointed independent persons on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

## **5. Report Implications / Impact**

### **5.1 *Legal (including crime and disorder)***

As set out above, the appointment of Independent Persons is a statutory requirement in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

### **5.2 *Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)***

None. Costs will be met from existing budgets.

### **5.3 *Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)***

None.

5.4 ***Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)***

None.

5.5 ***Environmental***

None.

5.6 ***Impact upon Our Plan Objectives***

None.

**6. Background Papers**

Report to the CFA on 20 June 2012 – ‘Standards under the Localism Act 2011 – Proposed New Arrangements’

**7. Appendices**

None.