

Item 12 – Council Meeting 18 July 2017

Appointment of Independent Persons

Appendix A

The position was advertised on the Council Website between 1 and 7 July 2017 and promoted via the Council's social media accounts.

The Council received three applications for the role.

Hilary Putman

Hilary has been involved with Standards for Local Authority Councillors since March 2009. Initially as an Independent Member and then the Chair of the Standards Committee for Selby district. Since July 2012, she has been one of two Independent Persons in Selby, North Yorkshire.

Hilary has a background in people orientated employment and a portfolio of public appointments and voluntary commitments. She is an active member of Soroptimist International. Hilary has also recently been appointed to the Out - of - Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel for North Yorkshire.

Wanda Stables

Wanda has been an Independent Member of the Standards Committee and then Independent Person for Selby District Council since 2009 and has attended many meetings and several hearings.

She is a retired Statutory Officer of the Crown, a role which she performed for 25 years, latterly as Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the County of North Yorkshire.

Since 2009, she has worked as a volunteer in charitable sector employment at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Selby where good communication skills, empathy and clear thinking are vital to her role here and client confidentiality is also a key issue.

Philip Eastaugh

Philip retired from HMRC in 2016 where he worked as a Criminal Investigator dealing with offences of tax and excise offences. This offences required liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies and local authorities. Philip has worked on cases in Courts across the North of England and in London.

Philip has not worked as an Independent Person before but is interested in the role as he wishes to put his skills to use for the benefit of the community.

The three applications have been assessed by the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer who consider that all three candidates are suitable for appointment to the role. All meet the essential criteria and have relevant skills.

As noted in the report the Council must appoint one Independent Person and previously resolved to appoint two.

The role is voluntary and appointing three Independent Persons has merit in that it ensures that there is always one available to be consulted when assessing whether complaints should proceed and to advise at hearings. It also ensures that there will be a second and separate person who can be consulted by the Councillor who is subject to the complaint.

There is no limit on the numbers of Independent Persons appointed and other North Yorkshire Districts have appointed three Independent Persons.

Recommendation

- (i) That the Council appoint Hilary Putman as an Independent Person for a term of 5 years from 19 July 2017**

- (ii) That Council appoint Wanda Stables and Philip Eastaugh as Independent Persons for a term of 3 years from 19 July 2017.**