

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 29th JUNE 2020

PUBLIC REPORT: Y

EXEMPT REPORT: N

Report Title	Appointment of Independent Persons
Report Author	Chief Officer Governance and Monitoring Officer
Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To extend the Term of Office of the Independent Persons to Annual Council 2021; and 2. Carry out the joint recruitment exercise on the basis agreed by Council on 27 January 2020 for the recruitment of Independent Persons from Annual Council 2021
Purpose of Report	To extend the term of office of the Independent Persons appointed under the Localism Act 2011
Reason for Decision	It is a legal requirement to appoint at least one Independent Person.
Portfolio (holder)	Councillor Dann
Corporate Priorities	
Financial Implications	None
Risk Management Implications	Discussed in the report
Environmental Implications	None as far as this report is concerned
Legal Implications	As set out in the body of this report. It is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person as provided for under the Localism Act 2011.
Equality Implications	Not applicable
Data Protection Implications	None as far as this report is concerned.
Consultation	Independent Persons
Background Papers	Localism Act 2011 Council report 27 January 2020
Appendices	

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 On 27 January 2020 the Council agreed to carry out a joint recruitment exercise with other authorities within Leicestershire for appointment of Independent Persons as required under the Localism Act 2011. The previous

recruitment was carried out in 2016 and the appointments were made in May 2016 and were due to expire at Annual Council in May 2020.

- 1.2 In accordance with the resolution of Council, the recruitment process was commenced in February 2020. However, there has been difficulty in recruiting a sufficient number of Independent Persons to create a wide enough pool from which to draw from in order to assist in delivering high standards of conduct amongst Councillors.
- 1.3 As an interim measure, and in order to facilitate an effective recruitment exercise, it is proposed that the term of appointment of the Council's Independent Persons is extended to the end of the 2020/21 Municipal Year. The Independent Persons have agreed in principle that they are willing to extend their term of appointment subject to Council confirming this extension.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the Council therefore extends the term of appointment of its remaining 5 Independent Persons and then participates in the joint recruitment exercise to appoint Independent Persons with effect from 2021/22. All the current IPs (listed below) have been contacted and have agreed to remain in post, with Council approval, until the end of the 2020/21 municipal year.

Mrs Christine Howell

Mr Gordon Grimes

Mr Michael Pearson

Mr Richard Gough

Mr Mark Shaw