

CUMBERLAND SHADOW STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Shadow Standards Committee** held on **Monday, 10 October 2022 at 11.00 am at Cabinet Room, Cumbria House, Carlisle**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Betton
Cllr A Glendinning
Cllr G Minshaw
Cllr M Mitchelson
Cllr B Pegram (Vice-Chair)
Cllr G Troughton (Chair)
Cllr B Wernham

Officers in attendance:

Ms C Parkinson, Interim Monitoring Officer
Mrs L Davis, Democratic Services Officer

PART 1 ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made for this meeting.

3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the appendices to Agenda Item No 4 – Appointment of the Independent Person were not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as these appendices contain exempt information relating to an individual.

4. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON

Members received a report that asked for their consideration to the applications received and to recommend to full Council that it made appointments to the role of Independent person for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011 to assist with the arrangements for dealing with complaints about elected members and, after the end of the shadow period, with complaints against co-opted members and parish and town councillors.

Following the Council meeting on 17 May 2022, a recruitment process was undertaken by the Monitoring Officer to enable the shadow authority to appoint an independent person at the earliest opportunity. Adverts were placed on the Council's website and the websites of the County Council and City and Borough Councils in the area and a targeted search was carried out through other bodies including the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Cumbria CVS. Five applications to the post were received, all of whom were currently acting as Independent Persons or have acted as an independent member on the Standards Committee. The application forms received together with references were appended to the report as Appendix 1.

Members debated the necessity of having five Independent Persons. It was acknowledged that workload was difficult to predict but some members thought that the appointment of five Independent Persons was excessive. It was noted that after 1 April 2023 the Council would also be responsible for dealing with complaints against members of parish and town councils. After being put to the vote, four in favour and three against, it was agreed that Council be recommended to appoint all five candidates for a fixed term from 18 October to the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2024. It was agreed that following this period, a review of workload could be undertaken and the quantity of Independent Persons needed could be more accurately ascertained. Following a further vote (five in favour and 2 against), it was agreed that an allowance of £1,200 be paid to each of the Independent Persons, together with expenses for travel

It was further agreed that additional information be included in the Council report:- the current and transitional workload, historical complaints data and the number of Councillors in the Cumberland Council authority area.

RESOLVED that

- (1) full Council be recommended to appoint the five candidates, listed below, for a term from 18 October 2022 up to the Council's AGM in May 2024;-

Sarah Townsend;
Jane Elliott
Anthony Creighton Payne
Keith Sinclair Thomas
Nigel Woodcock

(2) full Council be recommended to agree that an allowance of £1,200, for the term outlined above, to be paid to each of the independent persons together with expenses for travel.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm