



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council and Clare James, Corporate Director Resources	Council	7 July 2022

Appointment of an Independent Person

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To enable an additional Independent Person to be appointed to be involved in dealing with Councillors' Code of Conduct complaints and any disciplinary procedures for statutory officers.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1** Effective ethical standards arrangements and robust disciplinary procedure.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** That David Gregson be appointed as an Independent Person, in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

4. Background

- 4.1** The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council, as part of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, to appoint an Independent Person to be consulted by the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee on ethical standards issues and on the consideration of any alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by individual Borough, Town or Parish Councillors in Wyre. Under the Council's Constitution they would also form part of any disciplining process for the statutory officers of the Council.
- 4.2** On 25 June 2015 Barry Parsonage was appointed by the Council as an Independent Person. He advised the Monitoring Officer of his intention to resign at the end of June 2022.
- 4.3** A minimum of two Independent Persons is required to ensure that there is sufficient cover for the role. Following Barry Parsonage's decision to

resign from the role, a recruitment process was commenced and Mike Nuttall was appointed as a second Independent Person at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 12 May 2022, Helen Kay having been appointed previously.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** As part of the same recruitment process a further expression of interest in the role has been received from David Gregson. Mr Gregson works at Lancaster University and is Deputy Chair of the University’s Board of Discipline, which deals with more serious breaches of student discipline. He has a range of other relevant experience and, following an interview with the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer, would be an appropriate person for the role. It is therefore recommended that Mr Gregson also be appointed as an Independent Member to provide greater resilience for this key role.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	There are no additional financial implications associated with this report.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as referred to in section 4 of this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a ‘privacy impact assessment (PIA)’ is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

Appendices

None