

## **Recommendation of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee**

### **New role for Independent Persons**

1. At its meeting on 18 June 2015 the Members' Code of Conduct Committee considered a report on new simplified arrangements for taking disciplinary action against Council Statutory Officers arising from the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
2. The new Regulations replace the mandatory requirement to appoint a Designated Independent Person (DIP) to investigate any allegation of misconduct against the Statutory officers, with a decision by Council following consideration of advice or recommendations of an independent panel made up of Independent Persons appointed for the purposes of the members' conduct regime under the Localism Act 2011.
3. As the new Regulations increase the role of the Independent Person (IP), it is proposed that the existing shared pool arrangement with Guildford BC, Mole Valley DC and Waverley BC be extended to include Reigate and Banstead BC (RBBC) and that an additional two Independent Persons be appointed, namely Mr Paul Sherar and Mr David Seymour.
4. The existing three Independent Persons, Roger Pett, Tony Allenby and Vivienne Cameron have given their consent to take on this additional role. Paul Sherar has already been appointed to the role of Independent Person by RBBC and has given consent to be IP for Spelthorne BC and the other councils too.
5. Since the Committee considered the Report of the Monitoring Officer on this proposal, Mr David Seymour has been appointed as an Independent Person by RBBC, and has given his consent to act for the other Councils in the shared pool arrangement.

#### **Council is recommended:**

- 1. to agree that the following be appointed as Independent Persons to support both the Council's Code of Conduct and Statutory Officer procedure rule requirements:**
  - a. Mr Roger Pett**
  - b. Mr Tony Allenby**
  - c. Ms Vivienne Cameron**
  - d. Mr Paul Sherar**
  - e. Mr David Seymour**
- 2. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make consequential amendments to the Employment Procedure Rules within the Constitution.**