



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

COUNCIL

29 MAY 2013

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Open Report

Classification - For Decision

Key Decision: No

Wards Affected: None

Accountable Director: Tasnim Shawkat – Monitoring Officer

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The Localism Act 2011 abolished the Standards regime and introduced a new framework for the regulation of Member conduct. Part of the new arrangements requires the appointment of Independent Members to consider complaints against Members and to offer their impartial views on each case, including any investigations undertaken. This report seeks the appointment of Ms Johanna Holmes as the second Independent Member.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. That Ms Johanna Holmes be appointed, in conjunction with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, as an Independent Person to consider complaints against Members and to offer her impartial views on each case, including any investigations undertaken.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

3.1. The Localism Act 2011 requires an authority to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views are to be sought, and taken into account, by the authority before it makes its decision on an allegation that it has decided to investigate.

4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 4.1. Council at its meeting on 4 July 2012 agreed that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham Councils each appoint a single Independent Person separately but jointly to “form” a pool. Either of them could be called upon to act. The pool would ensure that there are sufficient numbers to be consulted by any of the parties involved in the process.
- 4.2. Two Independent Members, Ms Sophia Lambert CBE and Ms Janis Cammel OBE, in conjunction with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, were appointed as Independent Persons to consider complaints against Members and to offer their impartial views on each case, including any investigations undertaken under these arrangement.
- 4.3. Ms Sophia Lambert CBE resigned on 17 April 2013. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Members Panel has appointed Ms Johanna Holmes as their Independent Person at their Council meeting on 17 April 2013. Council is requested to appoint Ms Johanna Holmes, in conjunction with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as an Independent Person.

5. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The comments of the Director are contained within this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No.	Brief Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext. of holder of file/copy	Department/Location
	None		