

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE

meeting date: WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2021
 title: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 Principal Author: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Committee's endorsement and recommendation to Council of the appointment of an Independent Person.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – }
 - Corporate Priorities – }
 - Other Considerations – }
- The Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its Members. Review of the arrangements the Council operates supports that duty.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In February 2021, Committee approved the arrangements for the recruitment of two additional Independent Persons. The Council subsequently publicised the role and shortlisted in accordance with those arrangements.

2.2 On 23 March 2021, the interview panel, which as approved included the Leader, Leader of the Opposition, the Chair of Accounts and Audit Committee and the Monitoring Officer interviewed a candidate, Ms Margaret (Maggie) Nicholson. The interview panel recommends to Committee the appointment of Ms Maggie Nicholson as Independent Person.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Section 28(8)(C)(iii) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that:

"a person may not be appointed under the provision required by subsection (7) unless—

.....

*(iii) the person's appointment has been approved by **a majority of the members of the authority;**"*
[Emphasis added]

The appointment of an Independent Person must therefore be approved by Full Council. Consequently, Committee is asked to endorse and recommend the appointment of Ms Nicholson as Independent Person to Council.

3.2 Committee will note that one position for Independent Person remains vacant. It is proposed that a further recruitment process be commenced at the beginning of the next municipal year to fill this vacancy using the arrangements previously approved by Committee.

4 **RISK ASSESSMENT**

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Resources will be required in the recruitment of additional Independent Persons.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – The Council's reputation will be enhanced by its consideration of its standards arrangements and the appointment of additional Independent Persons.
- Equality & Diversity – N/A

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Endorse and recommend to Council the appointment of Ms Margaret (Maggie) Nicholson as Independent Person.

5.2 Authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to commence recruitment for one Independent Person in accordance with the arrangements approved by Committee.

MAIR HILL
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Mair Hill extension 4418

REF: MJH/Accounts&Audit/140421

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- Report to Accounts and Audit Committee 14 April 2021
- Report to Accounts and Audit Committee 25 November 2020
- Committee on Standards on Public Life - Local Government Ethical Standards, A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, January 2019.