

INDEPENDENT PERSON SELECTION CRITERIA SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

As well as being of good character, the Independent Person will have:

- A keen interest in standards in public life
- A wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy
- The ability to be objective, independent and impartial
- Sound decision making skills
- Leadership qualities, particularly in respect of exercising sound judgement
- A calm rational approach

The Independent Person will:

- Live in Kirklees
- Be a person in whose impartiality and integrity the public can have confidence
- Understand and comply with confidentiality requirements
- Have a demonstrable interest in local issues
- Have an awareness of the importance of ethical behaviours
- Possess good written and oral communication skills together with a willingness to seek out and listen to the views of others on matters pertaining to standards issues
- Be able to deal with substantial documentation and to analyse and interpret that which is important, meaningful and relevant to the business of Kirklees Council and their stated objectives regarding standards
- Be able to attend the meetings of Kirklees Council as and when required
- Be able to communicate via email
- Be able to challenge constructively the accepted views of others and put forward clear and logical alternatives as a means of achieving the objectives of Kirklees Council with regard to standards

Desirable additional criteria are:

- Knowledge/experience of local government or other public service and/or of large complex organisations and awareness of and sensitivity to the political process
- Knowledge and understanding of judicial/quasi-judicial or complaints processes
- Have had involvement in or knowledge of Public Authorities, Voluntary Organisations, Commercial Institutions, Professional or Employee Organisations and or Community or race relations activities
- Experience of working in committees, research groups, investigative panels or other social economic, or commercial agencies fulfilling the needs of the wider community
- Experience of dealing with complaints procedures in a large organisation
- Experience of dealing with issues of ethical conduct in employment or public service

- Experience in dealing with difficult issues which need constructive and sensitive solutions

You should demonstrate in your application how you meet the above criteria as this will assist the short-listing process.

Means of assessment will be by application form and by interview.

NOTE:

- Any new appointment will be for a period of between 1 and 4 years and may be reviewed for a further term by mutual agreement
- You will be required to be contactable at all times during normal working hours by telephone or by email and be available to attend hearings which may be held in the day time and at relatively short notice (although your duties are likely to be occasional)
- You must not currently have and must not enter into any contractual relations with the authority under which you gain personally
- You will be working on a voluntary basis with a reasonable allowance for carrying out the duties of this position

Eligibility for Appointment

A person cannot be appointed as an Independent Person if they are or were within a period of 5 years prior to the appointment:

- A member, co-opted member or officer of the authority
- A member, co-opted member or officer of a constituent authority
- A member, co-opted member or officer of a Parish or Town Council within Kirklees

or a relative or close friend of the above.

You must not have a public profile in relation to political activities.