

REPORT TITLE: Notice of appointment of 2nd Independent Person

Meeting:	Corporate Governance & Audit Committee
Date:	6th December 2024
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	N/A
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No – not a decision-making report
Purpose of Report To brief the corporate governance and audit committee on the appointment of a second Independent Person.	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the report be noted by members Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is for information only 	
Resource Implications: The Independent Person is paid a small allowance in remuneration which is budgeted for.	
Date signed off by Executive Director & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall – 19th November
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney – 19th November
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Samantha Lawton – 19th November

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report is intended to update Committee on the appointment of a second Independent Person, further to the authority granted by Council to the Monitoring Officer.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Prior to this appointment, Kirklees Council had one Independent Person. Recommendation and best practice is for a Local Authority to have a minimum of two Independent Persons.

2.2 Concerns had been raised about the risks associated with having only one Independent Person and authority had been sought and was given by Annual Council in May 2019 for the Monitoring Officer to recruit a second Independent Person.

2.3 In August 2024, an advert was placed on the Kirklees recruitment website and the vacancy was advertised via LinkedIn.

2.4 4 applications were received in total, and a shortlist of 2 candidates were interviewed.

2.5 The position was offered to Craig Ainsworth, who accepted and joined Kirklees as Independent Person on the 23rd of October 2024.

2.6 Mr Ainsworth has a background of public sector roles, including as a local authority Head of Governance, and also has held the role of Independent Person for two other local authorities.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

N/A

3.2 Working with Partners

N/A

3.3 Place Based Working

N/A

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

N/A

3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children

N/A

3.6 Financial Implications

N/A

3.7 Legal Implications

The role of Independent Person is a statutory one and they must be consulted on formal Standards issues. Having a single Independent Person risks being unable to comply with that duty should the Independent Person be unavailable.

3.8 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

None

4. Consultation

N/A

5. Engagement

None

6. Options

6.1 Options Considered

It is recommended that the report be noted.

6.2 Reasons for Recommended Option

The report is an 'information-only' report.

7. Next steps and timelines

N/A

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

[Annual Council May 2019](#)

10. Appendices

11. Service Director responsible

Samantha Lawton
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