

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Audit and Standards Committee
Date	-	9 December 2019
Report of the	-	Monitoring Officer
Subject	-	Independent Person Appointment

Recommendation to COUNCIL: That Mrs Rose Durban be appointed as an Independent Person in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, for a term of four years commencing from 17 December 2019.

Monitoring Officer: Lisa Cooper

Introduction

1. As Members will recall at the last meeting held on 23 September, the Committee was advised of the need to appoint an Independent Person (IP) following the resignation of one of the Council's three IPs.
2. The Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Committee and an Executive Director together with the Monitoring Officer comprise a panel to interview the suitable applicants and make a recommendation, via this meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee and then on to full Council on 16 December 2019.

Publicity

3. The Independent Person vacancy was advertised by way of a press release, the Council's website and promoted via social media and MyAlerts, as well being notified to all Councillors and all Parish and Town Councils within the Rother area. Each applicant was provided with a recruitment pack that set out the Role Profile and Person Specification.

Selection and Interview Panel

4. At the closing date (18 October), eight applications had been received and four candidates were shortlisted for interview, held on 30 October and 5 November 2019. The expectations of the role in terms of regular attendance at meetings and contributions to committee discussions on standards matters were explained to each applicant at interview.
5. The decision of the Panel is outlined below in order that the Committee can then make a recommendation to full Council on 16 December 2019. The calibre of the applicants was extremely high and it was a difficult decision to make.

Appointments

6. Having interviewed a number of very good candidates, the Panel are confident to recommend that Mrs Rose Durban be appointed to serve as one of the Council's Independent Persons.

Conclusion

7. Following the recruitment process to appoint an Independent Person, the Committee is asked to recommend to Council that Mrs Rose Durban's name be put forward for approval by the full Council on Monday 16 December.

Lisa Cooper
Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Risk Assessment Statement

Failure to appoint an additional Independent Persons will result in a lack of continuity and a missed opportunity to work alongside the existing Independent Persons whose terms of office expire in July 2021.