

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	18 September 2023
Report of the	-	Audit and Standards Committee
Subject	-	Reference from the Audit and Standards Committee

The Council is asked to consider the recommendation arising from the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 26 July 2023 as set out below.

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 26 July 2023

AS23/18. **INDEPENDENT PERSON (STANDARDS) - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO TERM OF OFFICE**

Members received the report of the Monitoring Officer to consider the proposal to extend the current Term of Office for Independent Person (Standards) Rose Durban by a further term of four years to December 2027, the maximum permissible.

The Localism Act 2011, Chapter 7, Section 28 placed a duty on the Council to appoint one or more Independent Persons (IPs). The Council currently had two IPs and had previously agreed that the term of office for IPs be set at four years, renewable once, to a maximum of eight years. Rose Durban was appointed in December 2019, and consequently, her initial term of office would expire in December 2023.

To avoid unnecessary administrative time and costs in recruiting, advice had confirmed that if all parties were agreeable to an extension to the existing term of office, there was no need to carry out a fresh recruitment exercise. The Monitoring Officer was keen to retain Rose Durban as an IP and the offer of an extension, subject to Member approval, had been accepted by Rose Durban.

The Audit and Standards Committee were happy to recommend to Council that the Term of Office for Rose Durban be extended for a further period of four years, expiring in December 2027.

RECOMMENDED: That the Term of Office for Independent Person (Standards) Rose Durban be extended by a further term of four years until December 2027.

(Audit and Standards Committee Agenda Item 5)