

## Cheltenham Borough Council

Council – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012

### New Conduct Regime - Appointment of Independent Person(s)

1. Council is referred to section 4 of the Report on the new Conduct Regime (agenda item 13) which refers to the appointment of Independent Person(s).
2. At its meeting in May, the Council was asked to approve the advertisement process for the appointment of up to 3 Independent Person(s) in order to provide flexibility pending consideration as to how the new Conduct Regime might be implemented within Cheltenham Borough Council.
3. The arrangements which are now recommended by the Constitution Working Group are contained within the report previously circulated. The recommendation envisages that the Independent Person(s) will, as well as fulfilling the statutory requirements, be consulted by the Monitoring Officer as part of the initial assessment of complaints and will be co-opted, non-voting members of the Standards Committee.
4. Whilst it is impossible, at this stage, to predict what the workload for the Independent Person(s) may be, the Monitoring Officer's recommendation is that the Council should appoint 2 Independent Persons at this Council meeting. If, having implemented the new arrangements, it is apparent that further appointments are necessary; the Council can review the position.
5. A Member Panel (Cllrs. Jordan, Garnham and Godwin) interviewed 3 candidates on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Each of the candidates' suitability for the role was assessed against the Job Description and Person Specification approved by the Council and consideration was given to whether skills were apparent which would enable them to gain the respect and confidence of members of the Borough Council and its 5 Parish Councils.
6. The Member Panel was unanimous in its **recommendation to the Council to appoint Mr. Duncan Chittenden and Mr. Martin Jauch as Independent Persons for Cheltenham Borough Council.** A brief synopsis of their relevant experience is set out below.

Mr. Duncan Chittenden – Resident in Cheltenham Borough, has wide experience of employment in the public sector and currently an Independent co-opted member of the Council's Standards Committee which position will cease on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Also is Chairman of Gloucestershire Police Authority Standards Committee, having served on that Committee for 4 years.

Mr. Martin Jauch - Resident in Gloucestershire adjacent to Cheltenham Borough and was a Metropolitan police officer for over 30 years. Has experience as a co-opted Independent Member initially of a Conservation Board and then of Cotswold District Council Standards Committee which he has chaired for 2 years and has, in that capacity, dealt with complex cases and Hearings.

7. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the appointment must be approved by a majority of the members of the Council.