



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.2

Appointment of Independent Persons

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	27 October 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
From:	Robert Parkin, Monitoring Officer and Chief Legal Officer
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Approve the appointment of David Pearl as the Independent Person for the Combined Authority for a four year term; andb) Approve the appointment of Gillian Holmes as the reserve Independent Person for the Combined Authority for a four year term.
Voting arrangements:	<p>A simple majority of all Members present and voting</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report requests that the Board approve the appointment of David Pearl as the Independent person and Gillian Holmes as the reserve Independent Person for a term of four years to be consulted on the decision to investigate any complaints for the Combined Authority.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 all relevant authorities are responsible for deciding how to deal with standards issues at a local level, including adopting its own local code and determining what arrangements it will adopt to deal with complaints.
- 2.2 The Act provides that the Authority must appoint an Independent Person to assist in discharging these responsibilities. The Independent Person will be consulted on the decision to investigate complaints and before it makes a decision on an investigated complaint. The Independent Person may be consulted on other standards matters, including by the member who is subject to an allegation.
- 2.3 The appointment of two Independent Persons allows for any occasion when one of them may feel there is a conflict of interest. A more recent change in the law requires the involvement of two independent persons in disciplinary proceedings affecting certain statutory chief officers. It is therefore appropriate for the Combined Authority to appoint two such persons in place.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority Board approved the appointment process in July and instructed the Monitoring Officer to carry out a recruitment process.
- 2.5 The position was advertised on the Combined Authority website and social media platforms and sent to the constituent councils for publication on their respective websites between 20th September and the 1st October 2021.
- 2.6 Following the closing date for applications, interviews were held on the 18th October with David Pearl and Gillian Holmes being selected as the best candidates. Their CVs are attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Independent persons from other constituent authorities are paid between £500 - £1100 per year; the following rates are currently paid:
- Cambridgeshire County Council - £500 per annum
 - East Cambs District Council - £1027.50 per annum
 - South Cambs District Council - £1090 per annum Lead (£500 – Deputy)
 - Huntingdonshire - £1000 per annum Lead (£500 – Reserve)
 - Peterborough City Council - £1000 per annum (£500 – reserve)
 - Fenland District Council - £992 per annum

– Cambridge City Council - £1000 per annum

3.2 The rate of remuneration for the Combined Authority Independent Persons was agreed should be £1,000 per annum for the Lead and £500 for the reserve, with the addition of travel and parking expenses if appropriate.

3.3 This will be contained in existing budgets.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 These are set out in the report.

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 None.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – David Pearl (CV)

6.2 Appendix 2 – Gillian Holmes (CV)

7. Background Papers

7.1 [CA Board report – July 2021](#)