

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DETAILS: Gillian Holmes

EXPERIENCE:

Current positions: -

- I currently act as Independent Person for Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council & Huntingdon District Council. I act as Deputy Independent Person for South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- I also act, on a part time basis, as a Consumer Advocate for CCW (The Consumer Council for Water).

Previous employment:

- I am a qualified solicitor (now non practising). I spent the majority of my working life working for the Courts Service advising on criminal & family law and latterly as part of the Senior Management Team for Bedfordshire.

SKILLS:

- I have spent most of my working life in public service and so am familiar with the Principles of Public Life. The positions that I currently hold demonstrate both my interest in maintaining high standards in public life and also my wish to serve the community & uphold local democracy.
- Acting as an Independent Person has enabled me to develop an awareness and some degree of understanding of the role of Elected Members. I have experience of working with Member Codes of Conduct (they all seem to be slightly different!) and of their application. The complaints that I have been asked to give my views on have been wide ranging and varying in seriousness and complexity and have included complaints against Parish Councillors. Whenever I have been asked to give my views I have done so with impartiality & objectivity.
- My previous work as a Legal Adviser required me to advise in a public courtroom, so demonstrating independence and impartiality was critical. Cases could be difficult and complex so I was often required to analyse and evaluate complex material in order to make judgements and to properly advise. I continue to use analytical skills in the roles that I currently hold both as Independent Person and in my work with CCW.
- I live within Cambridgeshire and so am aware of the issues affecting the region & of the differing pressures and challenges that it faces. I promote equality in all that I do. Throughout my working life I have come in to contact with people from all walks of life and hope that I treat all with respect & consideration.
- I communicate well both in writing and orally. I am able to give clear advice and to explain the rationale behind any views that I give. This can be demonstrated both

through my legal work and through the work that I have done as Independent Person, where I have been required to give and explain my views both in writing and orally, particularly on the occasions when I have been required to attend Standards hearings.

- Much of my legal work was of a sensitive and private nature so that I have considerable experience of dealing with these issues; of the need to approach issues with sensitivity and to maintain confidentiality at all times.
- I would welcome the opportunity to take on the role of Independent Person with the Combined Authority, to utilise my skills and experience and to develop further.