

INDEPENDENT PERSON - SELECTION CRITERIA

The Independent Person will have:

- a keen interest in standards in public life;
- a wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy;
- the ability to be objective, independent and impartial;
- sound decision making skills; and
- leadership qualities, particularly in respect of exercising sound judgement.

The Independent Person will:

- be a person in whose impartiality and integrity the public can have confidence;
- understand and comply with confidentiality requirements;
- have a demonstrable interest in local issues;
- have an awareness of the importance of ethical behaviours; and
- be a good communicator.

Desirable, but not essential, additional criteria are:

- working knowledge/experience of local government or other public service and/or of large complex organisations and awareness of and sensitivity to the political process;
- knowledge and understanding of judicial/quasi-judicial or complaints processes; and
- knowledge or understanding of HR or other employment related procedures.

You should demonstrate in your application how you meet the above criteria as this will assist the short-listing process.

Eligibility for Appointment

A person cannot be appointed as an Independent Person if they are or were within a period of 5 years prior to the appointment:

- a councillor, co-opted councillor or officer of the Council;
- a councillor, co-opted councillor or officer of a Town or Parish council in the Borough Council's area; or
- a relative* or close friend of the above.

* for this purpose 'relative' means:

1. the applicant's spouse or civil partner;
2. any person with whom the applicant is living as if they are spouses or civil partners;
3. the applicant's grandparents;
4. any person who is a lineal descendent of the applicant's grandparents;
5. a parent, brother, sister or child of anyone in (a) or (b);
6. the spouse or civil partner of anyone within (c), (d) or (e);

7. any person living with a person within (c), (d) or (e) as if they were spouse or civil partner to that person.

Special conditions

1. The Independent Person must sign an undertaking to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors and disclose their interests in the register of members' interests.
2. Applicants must disclose whether they hold any contract with the Council.
3. Applicants must disclose whether they are a party to any outstanding complaint or grievance against the Council.
4. Canvassing by the candidate will disqualify your application.