



REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON FOR STANDARDS OF MEMBERS' CONDUCT

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new statutory regime for regulating Members' standards of conduct, as part of which the Council must appoint an Independent Person to carry out various functions. The Appointments Sub-Committee (to which was delegated these tasks) has interviewed four candidates for the appointment and now nominates **Keith Mitchell**, who is considered to possess the qualities needed to undertake the statutory role of Independent Person.

Mr Mitchell is a former Housing Association official who lives in the borough. Further personal details of the nominee are available to Members on request but as they contain or relate to personal information which is exempt, his details are not available to the press or public.

The Localism Act requires that the appointment be made by the Council.

There will be occasions when the Independent Person will be unable to act (for example because of illness or holiday, or because of a possible conflict of interest) and so a deputising arrangement is needed.

Discussion with officers at Redbridge Council has indicated that it is willing to enter into an informal mutual support arrangement whereby the Independent Person appointed by that Council is available when necessary to deputise for this Council's Independent Person, and *vice versa*.

Redbridge has appointed Kevin Madden as its Independent Person. Mr Madden was formerly an Independent Member of this Council's Standards Committee but is not debarred from acting as the Independent Person.

The Appointments Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS** that:

1. Keith Mitchell be appointed as the Council's Independent Person for Standards of Members' conduct, for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011.
2. The Independent Person, Kevin Madden, appointed by Redbridge Council be appointed to deputise for the Council's Independent Person when necessary; and that the Council approve this Council's Independent Person deputising for Redbridge.