



COUNCIL, 27 NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a statutory regime for regulating Members' standards of conduct. As part of the arrangements, the Council appointed an Independent Person, Keith Mitchell, to carry out various functions. The Council also appointed another Independent Person who would deputise for Mr Mitchell when necessary.

The Council entered into an informal mutual support arrangement with London Borough of Redbridge whereby the Independent Person appointed by that Council would be available when necessary to deputise for this Council's Independent Person, and *vice versa*.

Redbridge appointed Kevin Madden as its Independent Person, and this Council appointed Mr Madden as the deputy.

Sadly, Mr Madden passed away earlier this year. Redbridge has since appointed a new Independent Person, Sarah Cooper James, to fill the vacancy. As part of the mutual support arrangement, the Council is required to appoint Ms Cooper James as the Independent Person to deputise for the Mr Mitchell.

At its meeting on 13 November 2013 the Governance Committee considered a report concerning the proposed appointment of the Independent Person appointed by Redbridge to act as Deputy Independent Person for Havering in a reciprocal arrangement.

Governance Committee Members received information about the relevant experience and skills which Ms Sarah Cooper James brought to the position. It was confirmed that her allowances would be funded by Redbridge.

The Committee accordingly recommends to Council that Ms Sarah Cooper James be appointed as Deputy Independent Person for Havering.