



Code of Conduct – Independent Persons

INTRODUCTION

Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to appoint at least one Independent Person to assist in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst its Councillors and town/parish Councillors.

The Independent Person will be consulted before a decision is made on an investigated complaint and may also be consulted on other standards matters, including by the Councillor who is subject to an allegation.

From 1 May 2017, it has been agreed that Winchester City Council's Independent Persons be a shared resource to also act (collectively) as an Independent Person for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRS).

Accordingly, appointments have been confirmed at the full Council meeting on 5 April to the three Independent Persons roles for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Municipal Years. There is provision that (in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee) this be extended for a further two years. The current appointment is:

Mr Michael Cronin

INDEPENDENT PERSON - ROLE DETAILS (WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL).

Set out below is more detailed information about the role which the Independent Person is expected to perform:-

1. To assist the Council in promoting high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted members of Winchester City Council and town and parish Councillors and, in particular, to uphold the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council and the seven principles of public office, namely selflessness, honesty, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and leadership.
2. To be consulted by the Council through the Monitoring Officer and/or the Standards Committee before it makes a decision on an investigated allegation and to be available to attend meetings of the Sub Committee of the Standards Committee for this purpose.

3. To be available for consultation by the Monitoring Officer and/or the Standards Committee before a decision is taken as to whether to investigate a complaint or to seek local resolution of the same.
4. To be available for consultation by any elected member, including town and parish Councillors, who are the subject of a standards complaint.
5. To develop a sound understanding of the ethical framework as it operates within Winchester City Council and its town and parish councils and to be available to attend and advise the Standards Committee on such matters.
6. To participate in training events to develop skills, knowledge and experience and in networks developed for Independent Persons operating outside the City Council's area.
7. To attend training events organised and promoted by the Council's Standards Committee.
8. To act as advocate and ambassador for the Council in promoting ethical behaviour.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact the City Council's Democratic Services Manager (David Blakemore) on 01962 848217 or e-mail on dblakemore@winchester.gov.uk

For any further information of the role of the Independent Persons with regard to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRS), Please contact Kevin Greenhough on 01962 847483 or e-mail: kevin.greenhough@hants.gov.uk

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