

## HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Standards Committee

15 March 2023

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Retirement of Independent Person and Future Arrangements</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Alan Barrow – Executive Councillor for Corporate Services and Finance</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Linden Vernon – Head of Democratic Services</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>

#### 1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the retirement of the Council's Independent Person, Mr Peter Matthews, at the end of this municipal year and to recommend proposals for future arrangements.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the retirement of Mr Peter Matthews.
- 2.2 That the Committee recommends to Council that Mr Philip Carnall be appointed as the Authority's primary Independent Person.
- 2.3 That recruitment takes place to appoint a replacement substitute Independent Person who will perform duties across the strategic alliance.

#### 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 Mr Peter Matthews has notified the Council of his intention to retire from his position as the Council's primary Independent Person from the end of this Municipal year, a role he has held since May 2012. In this role his views have been sought and taken into account with regards to allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct and he has used his wide-ranging experience to contribute to the wider work of the Standards Committee which has been highly valued.

- 3.2 Following the retirement of Mr Matthews it is proposed that the Committee recommends to Council that it's substitute Independent Person, Mr Philip Carnall, be appointed as its primary Independent Person.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that recruitment takes place to appoint a further substitute Independent Person and that the opportunity is taken to arrange for the duties of this post to be conducted across the strategic alliance to include Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 Not Applicable.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 As detailed in section 6 of the report.

Mark Trillo  
**Executive Director (Governance and Commissioning)**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

None

**Contact details**

Linden Vernon  
Head of Democratic Services  
Linden.vernon@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk  
01538 395613

6. **Detail**

- 6.1 Mr Peter Matthews has notified the Council of his intention to retire from his position as the Council's primary Independent Person from the end of this Municipal year, a role he has held since May 2012. Mr Matthews first became an independent member on the Council's Standards Committee in 2007 and subsequently became the Committee Chairman in 2008. This led to him becoming the Borough Council's first Independent Person following the introduction of the Local Government Act 2011. In this role his views have been sought and taken into account with regards to allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct and he has used his wide-ranging experience to contribute to the wider work of the Standards Committee which has been highly valued.
- 6.2 Mr Matthews entered public life as a Glossop Borough councillor in May 1964 and was elected Mayor of the Borough in 1969. Mr Matthews then served on the newly formed High Peak Borough Council in 1974 for the next three years. Mr Matthews also served as a Magistrate for over 36 years and became the first Chairman of the combined bench when the Buxton High Peak and Glossop benches merged. Upon retirement in 2005 he was the longest serving magistrate in Derbyshire at that point.

- 6.3 In 2016 Mr Matthews was admitted as an Honorary Freeman having been recognised by the Council as being a person of distinction who had rendered eminent service to the Borough.
- 6.4 Following the retirement of Mr Matthews it is proposed that the Committee recommends to Council that its current substitute Independent Person, Mr Philip Carnall, be appointed as its primary Independent Person. Mr Carnall was appointed as a substitute Independent Person by Council on 19 May 2015. Since his appointment he has attended committee meetings and has been involved with the consideration of standards complaints in the absence of Mr Matthews.
- 6.5 It is also proposed that recruitment takes place to appoint a further substitute Independent Person and that the opportunity is taken to arrange for the duties of this post to be conducted across the strategic alliance to include Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.