

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

5 December 2023



**Subject:** Independent Members (Standards Committee)

**Report of:** Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer.

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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

### 1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Standards Committee recommends to Council the appointment of:

- i. Interim Independent Person.
- ii. 1 Lay member of Standards Committee.

### 2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That City Council agrees that the following persons be appointed

ROLE	APPOINTEE	TERM OF OFFICE
Independent Person	Alex Oram	December 2023 - December 2024
Standards Committee – Lay Member	Talbinder Kaur	December 2023 – December 2027

### 3 Background

3.1 In accordance with S27 of the Localism Act a relevant authority must:

- i. Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and co-opted members; and
- ii. When discharging its duty, adopt a voluntary code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in their capacity as members (that is in an official capacity)

3.2 Under section 28(6) of the Act a relevant authority must have in place arrangements:

- i. Under which allegations can be investigated; and
- ii. Under which decisions on allegations can be made.

3.3 Birmingham has an established Standards Committee and its current membership consist of:

- 2 elected members from each of the three largest political groups represented on the Council.
- 6 lay members

3.4 The Independent Person supports the Standards Committee by providing an independent perspective on the Council's ethical framework, as well providing independent advice to elected members.

3.5 Following the resignation of the previous Independent Person, and to ensure the Council is legally compliant, it is recommended that an interim Independent Person be appointed pending further recruitment.

#### **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

4.1 It is proposed that the appointees, set out in this report are appointed.

#### **5 Legal Implications**

5.1 None other than those stated above.

#### **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 Allowances are paid to Lay members from the members allowances budget.

6.2 Any costs relating to the Independent Person will be met from existing budgets.

## **7 Equalities / EIA**

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

## **8 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

8.1 There are none arising from this report.