



East Staffordshire Borough Council Appointment of Independent Person (Standards Committee)

Do you want to help us promote high ethical standards at East Staffordshire Borough Council?

Are you interested in:

- making a difference to your local community
- upholding high ethical standards
- shaping the discussion on ethical behaviour in local government in East Staffordshire
- supporting good judgement and governance

We are seeking to appoint a further “Independent Person” to provide an impartial, balanced and informed view on complaints about the behaviour of Councillors and contribute to the oversight of ethical standards in local government in East Staffordshire. The role is defined in the Localism Act 2011.

Independent Persons sit as co-opted members of our Standards Committee, which meets quarterly each year and is responsible for monitoring our Code of Conduct and promoting high ethical standards amongst elected councillors. Independent Persons liaise with local authority staff and councillors, review and comment on Standards proposals (and complaints) and get involved in ethical accountability conversations with local leaders and senior council officials, working collegiately with fellow committee members.

The Council is also required to use its Independent Persons in respect of dismissal or disciplinary procedures against the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer when they arise, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.



Some knowledge of corporate governance in local government, charities, schools or public bodies would be an advantage, but no particular qualifications or experience are required.

An appointed Independent Person is paid £750 per year, paid quarterly in arrears and would be expected to take up no more than 5-10 hours a month of your time. Often less.

If you feel that you have suitable qualifications and experience for carrying out this role please send your CV and a brief expression of interest (max. 500 words) to the Council's Democratic Services team by 18th August 2023 at the following address: democratic.services@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Before applying, please note the following restrictions stipulated in the Localism Act 2011:

A person cannot be appointed as an Independent Person if they are or were within a period of 5 years prior to the appointment:

- (a) a member, co-opted member or officer of the authority; or*
- (b) a relative or close friend of a person in (a) above.*

A 'relative' is defined as:

- (a) The candidate's spouse or civil partner;*
- (b) Any person with whom the candidate is living as if they were spouses or civil partners;*
- (c) The candidate's grandparent;*
- (d) Any person who is a lineal descendent of the candidate's grandparent;*
- (e) A parent, brother, sister or child of anyone in paragraphs (a) or (b);*
- (f) The spouse or civil partner of anyone within paragraphs (c), (d) or (e); or*
- (g) Any person living with a person within paragraphs (c), (d) or (e) as if they were spouse or civil partner to that person.*

The Council will not consider applications from any persons who are actively engaged in local party political activity.

For an informal discussion about the role please contact:

John Teasdale
Head of Legal and Regulatory Services (Monitoring Officer)
01283 508267



Further information for the Council's [Standards Committee](#) and [the role of the Independent Person](#) can be viewed by clicking on these links.

We look forward to hearing from you.