

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT PERSON: JOB DESCRIPTION

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.

In accordance with these requirements, the Council has adopted a Member Code of Conduct, and has in place arrangements for dealing with any allegation that there has been a breach of the Code. These arrangements include the appointment of an Independent Person to advise on breaches of the Code.

The Independent Person may be consulted by the Monitoring Officer prior to making any decision about whether to investigate an allegation or complaint relating to whether a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. This will be done by face to face meeting, telephone or on Teams. Views will need to be provided in writing.

The Independent Person's views will be obtained on any report produced following an investigation of an allegation against a member and in particular whether a matter can be reasonably dealt with by local resolution.

The Independent Person may be consulted by a member or co-opted member of the Council against whom an allegation or complaint has been made.

The views of the Independent Person will be considered by the Council's Audit Governance and Standards Sub-Committee if it meets to determine the outcome of any complaints and on any proposed remedial action. The Independent Person will be required to attend any such meetings and be available to answer questions at the Sub-Committee.

5 October 2022