

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 28 June 2021

RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

Contact for further information:-

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Executive Summary

To consider the re-appointment of Mrs Hilary Banks as the Authority's Independent Person, for a shorter period of tenure to allow the Authority to undertake recruitment for a replacement.

Recommendation

That the Authority re-appoints Mrs Hilary Banks as the Authority's Independent Person as required by the Localism Act 2011 for a further period from 28 June until the Authority's meeting in February 2022, at which point Mrs Banks will have been closely associated with and a dedicated source of guidance for the Fire Authority for 20 years. This would allow the Authority to make arrangements for a replacement to take office after that date.

Information

Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 makes provision in relation to standards matters. The Authority has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members which includes the appointment of one or more Independent Persons.

At its meeting held June 2019 Mrs Hilary Banks was re-appointed to the role of Independent Person for a further term of 2 years, continuing in that role until June 2021 with an option to continue to hold office after that date if the Authority so wished and Mrs Banks was prepared to do so.

Mrs Banks has been a much appreciated source of Independent and wise counsel, during unprecedented times and her wealth of experience and steady approach has been welcome by the Authority.

Members are asked to consider the re-appointment of Mrs Hilary Banks as the Authority's Independent Person, as required by the Localism Act 2011 for a further period until February 2022, continuing in that role until the meeting of the Authority in February 2022, at which point the Authority should be in a position to appoint a replacement, having undertaken the appropriate recruitment exercise.

Business Risk

The Authority is at risk of not complying with statutory requirements if it does not consider the recommendations set out in this report. The responsibility for the proper conduct of its Members rests with the CFA and is one which if not given sufficient

attention has the potential to adversely affect its reputation should there be an incident of Member misconduct which is not dealt with in accordance with the public's expectations.

Environmental Impact

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None.

HR Implications

None.

Financial Implications

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Localism Act 2011	November 2011	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
CFA Minutes	17 June 2013	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
CFA Minutes	22 June 2015	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
CFA Minutes	19 June 2017	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
CFA Minutes	17 June 2019	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate: N/A		