

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT PERSON

1. The Role

- To consider complaints made against Members, Co-opted Members and/or Parish Councillors and provide comments to the Monitoring Officer and where applicable the Standards Committee before either takes a decision on whether there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- Views may also be sought on a complaint:
 - Where it is believed there has not been a breach of the Code of Conduct
 - By a member, co-opted member or parish councillor of this authority if that person's behaviour is subject to a complaint
- To attend meetings of the Standards Committee and sub-committees as and when required. (Note - meetings will normally be held in the late afternoon or early evening but may be held earlier in the day and may occasionally be called at short notice).
- To be a role model and champion ethics and standards and the Council's Code of Conduct for elected members.
- To participate in relevant training and development.

2. The Person

The ideal candidate for the position of Independent Person will have:-

- A knowledge of and commitment to high standards of ethics and standards.
- A high level of personal integrity.
- Good analytical skills, be able to demonstrate clarity of thought and the ability to assimilate information quickly and arrive at balanced judgements.
- Independence of mind, objectivity and impartiality.
- Good interpersonal skills, including good written and oral communication skills, the ability to co-operate with others and tact and diplomacy in handling sensitive matters.
- Political awareness.
- A keen interest in local governance.
- An ability to work as part of a team
- Previous standards experience is desirable

3. Special Conditions

Independent persons :-

- Must not be connected to a political party
- Will receive reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by, or in connection with, the discharge of this function.

A person is not eligible for appointment if they:

- a. Are, or have been within the past 5 years, a Member, co-opted Member or officer of the Council;

- b. Are or have been within the past 5 years, a Member, co-opted Member or officer of a parish council within the Borough, or
- c. Are a relative, or close friend, of a person within paragraph a or b above. For this purpose, "relative" means –
- d. Spouse or civil partner;
- e. Living with the other person as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners;
- f. Grandparent of the other person;
- g A lineal descendent of a grandparent of the other person;
- h. A parent, sibling or child of a person within paragraphs d or e;
- I A spouse or civil partner of a person within paragraphs f, g or h; or
- j. Living with a person within paragraphs f, g or h as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners.