

Independent Person Haringey Council Standards Committee and dismissal of Council Statutory Officers

Person specification and job description

Person Specification:

The successful candidate must have the following Essential skills and abilities:

1. Good analytical, questioning and interpersonal skills
2. Able to observe confidentiality at all times.
3. Experience of decision-making skills involving sensitive issues
4. Objective, impartial, open minded with a high level of integrity
5. Political awareness but independent of any political party
6. Interested in local government.
7. On the register of local government electors
8. Sufficient time to devote to the appointment.

Desirable skills and abilities:

9. An understanding of the role of a Council and its Councillors
10. An understanding and interest in standards of conduct in public life
11. Experience of dealing with people and matters where conduct and actions must be of the highest standard.
12. A commitment to the effective provision of public services

Job Description:

The successful candidate(s) will be required to:

1. Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors and coopted members.
2. Provide views to the Standards Committee before it takes a decision following an investigation about a breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, before a decision is made about the allegation.

Appendix 1 Recruitment of Independent Person

3. If requested, provide views to the Standards Committee and/or the Monitoring Officer about allegations where no investigation has taken place or before an investigation has been commenced.
4. If requested, provide views to a member or co-opted member of the authority whose behaviour is the subject of a complaint that they have breached the Code of Conduct.
5. Be considered for appointment to the Council's Committee (Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel) responsible for advising the Council on the dismissal of the Council's Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

To ensure your voice is truly independent, the law rules you out for this role if you are currently a member, co-opted member or employee of Haringey Council, or you are a relative or close friend of any such person. It also rules you out if you were a member or co-opted member of the authority in the previous 5 years prior to appointment.

Independent Person - Haringey Council

Are you interested in promoting high ethical standards in Haringey Council?

Haringey Council has a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for your elected councillors and co-opted members. We take this responsibility seriously and have a Code of Conduct which sets out the key obligations which must be observed.

If an allegation is made that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, we want someone who views can be sought (either by the Council Standards Committee, Monitoring Officer or the member concerned) before a decision is made about what to do. This Independent Person position is a requirement created by the Localism Act 2011.

In addition, new Regulations in 2015 require an Independent Person to be involved in making recommendations to the Council where the Council is considering dismissing its key Statutory Officers.

We are looking for applicants who:

- Can offer the profile and experience which the community would recognise and respect as bringing an independent and informed perspective to the consideration of complaints about member conduct.
- Are familiar with ethical questions and the development and interpretation of codes of conduct.
- Have good analytical and interpersonal skills.
- Experience of decision-making skills involving sensitive issues
- Is objective, impartial and have a high level of integrity?
- Are independent of any political party.

To ensure your voice is truly independent, the law rules you out for this role if you are currently a member, co-opted member or employee of Haringey Council, or you are a relative or close friend of such a person. The law also rules you out if you have been a member, co-opted member or employee of Haringey Council in the 5 years prior to any appointment.

The post carries an allowance of £1,250 per annum for the primary appointment with £250 for any deputy appointed. The appointments will be for 4 years.

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If you would like to have an informal discussion about this role, please contact Fiona Alderman, the Council's Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer of 020 8489 3974 or email: fiona.alderman@haringey.gov.uk.

An application form and information pack can be obtained on the Council's website at www.haringey.gov.uk or from Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services Manager on 020 8489 2929 or email: ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is xxxxxx

Interviews are to be held in the evening during the week commencing xxxxxxxx