

Motion – Appointment of Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011

Mover: Councillor Janet Whitehouse

Seconder: Councillor David Stellan

“That this Council –

(a) deplores the loss of expertise of experienced independent members from the previous Standards Committee because of the Government's decision not to permit them to be appointed as Independent Persons for a term of office which extends beyond June 2013;

(b) agrees that, not only is this excluding experienced people with considerable expertise, but has also wasted considerable investment in training and advice provided for independent members by Council officers;

(c) notes that the role of independents has not changed fundamentally under the new standards arrangements; and

(d) calls upon the Government to amend the legislation to allow independent members of the previous Standards Committees to apply to become Independent Persons under the new standards arrangements on an continuing basis and makes representations to that effect to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government.”