

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON(S)  
PERSON SPECIFICATION – SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

ATTRIBUTES	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared to undergo formal training in the role</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of councillors at principal council and parish council level</li> <li>• Understanding of the diverse functions of a principal council, contemporary issues and challenges facing local government</li> <li>• Awareness of the ethical standards regime</li> </ul>
Experience and skills	<p>The post holder must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have personal integrity and act independently</li> <li>• Be fair and able to take an objective view of sometimes emotive issues</li> <li>• Have an ability to act impartially</li> <li>• Be able to exercise sound judgement</li> <li>• Have excellent inter-personal skills</li> <li>• Be able to express their ideas and point of view effectively, while being an excellent listener</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of acting as an Independent Person or independent co-opted member of a local authority standards committee</li> </ul>
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be willing to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members</li> <li>• Discrete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be committed to public services and the principles of accountability, probity and openness</li> </ul>

Circumstances	<p>The post holder must not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have been a Councillor, Co-opted Member or Employee of the Council (or Hetton Town Council) within the last 5 years</li></ul> <p>Note: “Co-opted Member” here does not include someone who has been an Independent Person in respect of the relevant Council’s standards committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be in a position of management, control or major decision-making within any voluntary or community organisation funded by the Council</li><li>• be related to, or be a close friend of, a Member or co-opted Member or officer of the Council or Hetton Town Council</li></ul>	
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