

Section 4: Information in support of your application

Please include any experience, skills, knowledge, and achievements from any areas of your life which you consider you would bring to the position of Independent Person. Please use the criteria of the person specification for reference.

Before moving to Lincolnshire in 1998, I was an Independent Member of Cheshire Police Authority, serving as Vice Chairman in 1997/8 and briefly as Acting Chairman. In the early 1990s, I served as a member of Cheshire County Council's Education Services Committee, representing chairs of primary school governors.

I served as a member of Lincolnshire County Council's Local Remuneration Panel until my appointment as an Independent Member of the County Council's Standards Committee in 2003. I was elected Vice Chairman of this Committee in July 2005, and subsequently served as Chairman for a year, until June 2007.

I was appointed as an Independent Member of South Holland District Council's Standards Committee in 2004. I chaired the Committee following the death of the previous Chairman in 2008 until 30 June 2012.

I served as the independent chair of South Holland Crime and Disorder Partnership and as a trustee of South Holland Volunteer Resource Centre (until its ~~closure~~ closure). I was a governor of two primary schools in South Holland until August 2009. I was a member of the Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral from 2000 until 2008. I was a member of the South Holland Local Strategic Partnership (the Rural Acton Zone) until September 2009, and had a particular interest in community cohesion issues.

I am currently a trustee of South Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Service.

I am committed to the importance of effective and properly resourced local democracy, and believe that it is essential that local councils have the confidence of electors and partner organisations.

Although I have not sought elected office, I have worked with district and county councillors both in Cheshire (where I lived until 1998) and, since 1998, in Lincolnshire. I have a good knowledge of the procedures and working of different local authorities, and the demands on, and expectations of, councillors.

I am used to working in an environment where high standards are expected, and have a specific and statutory role in the Church of England's disciplinary and grievance procedures for clergy, in which I have to be fair, impartial and objective. I have to read and understand complex documents most days. As a member of the Church of England's General Synod, I am involved in the preparation and scrutiny of new legislation in the form of Church of England Measures.

I have experience of communications (as a former church press officer) and am used both to committee work, to public speaking and to drafting reports and correspondence. An ability to observe confidentiality is an essential requirement of my role.

Based in Quarrington since September 2009, my work as Archdeacon of Lincoln brings me into daily contact with a variety of volunteers who run the Church of England's parishes in the southern half of Lincolnshire. This experience is directly relevant to understanding the operation of (civil) parish councils and the occasional vagaries of their members. I am used to employing my diplomatic skills in dealing with our volunteers, and fully understand the importance of confidentiality. I work daily as part of the Diocese of Lincoln's leadership team.

South Kesteven falls within the area of my archdeaconry.

Having served as a member of North Kesteven and South Holland District Councils' Standards Committee until their abolition in the Localism Act, I am already aware of many of the issues facing councils as they adjust to the new standards regime. I have a good knowledge of the current legislative requirements, the changing context of the standards and expectations laid on councillors.

I believe that my experience means that I would be able to make a useful contribution to the work of South Kesteven District Council through serving as an Independent Person, and thus contribute to maintaining the existing high levels of confidence in the work of the Council.

I have recently been appointed as the Independent Person for standards for North Kesteven District Council.

I confirm that

- I am not a relative or close friend of a member of South Kesteven District Council
- I am willing and able to attend meetings at short notice
- I am committed to equality and diversity
- I am not, and never have been, adjudged bankrupt
- I am not a member of a political party

As my work involves frequent travel around south Lincolnshire, I have access to mobile communications technology, allowing me to respond quickly to telephone calls and emails. I can usually attend meetings at short notice.