## **Senior Officer Decision**

Consultative meetings: Council

Consultative meetings dates: 28 September 2022



| Exempt from publication |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| No.                     |  |  |

# Title: Report: Former Councillor and former Honorary Alderman J Humphreys

## Links to the consultative meeting:

Council on Wednesday, 28th September, 2022, 6.00 pm

#### Minute 32:

#### **RECOMMENDATION** to be passed to Senior Officers;

That Council note the advice of Mr Peter Oldham Q.C. set out in Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive.

### **RECOMMENDATION** to be passed to Senior Officers;

That Council considered in the light of the advice received and the updated contents of this report that it does wish to commission an independent investigation or enquiry into this matter.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** to be passed to Senior Officers;

- That this Council hereby commissions Verita to carry out an independent investigation in accordance with Verita's proposal attached ("the Investigation") and instructs Simon Davey the Strategic Lead for Finance immediately to complete (or authorise completion of) the contract and any necessary paperwork with Verita;
- Approves a budget of up to £45,000 (exc VAT) for the Investigation.
- Approves an exemption to the Council's standing orders that would normally require
  quotations to be obtained from three suppliers to enable the Council to appoint Verita given
  their experience and expertise in this highly specialist area.
- Requests that Verita treats Simon Davey together with Cllr Ian Thomas Chair of East
  Devon District Council and Cllr Sarah Jackson the Portfolio Holder for Democracy and
  Transparency and Cllr Jess Bailey as the relevant contacts for the purposes of any queries
  or day to day matters relating to the Investigation and who shall in the first instance receive
  Verita's report following completion of the Investigation.

### **RECOMMENDATION** to be passed to Senior Officers;

That Council defers Recommendations 4, 5, and 6 of the report of the Chief Executive until the investigation was completed and report received.

## **Authority**

Decision of Council on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to delegate decision making to officers until 23.59 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Minutes 26th July 2021 Council Meeting). Senior Officer Decision of 10<sup>th</sup> December to extend the arrangements until 23.59 on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Senior Officer Decision Record 10th December 2021). Senior Officer Decision of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to extend the arrangements until 23.59 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 (Senior Officer Decision Record 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021).

| Officer Decision   |
|--|
| Consultations: I was present at / have watched the recording of the consultative meeting which considered this item Yes $\boxtimes$ No $\square$ |
| Detail any other consultations carried out: N/A  |
| Other considerations:  |
| Do the legal and finance comments and equalities impact, climate change and risk assessments as detailed in the officer report remain the same.  |
| Yes ⊠ No □   |
| Decision:  |
| (please complete)  |
| Reasons for decision: I am not aware of any reason to depart from the recommendations.   |
|  |
|  |
| Signed . Dated: 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022  |
| Senior Officer job title and name: Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance   |



| For Democratic Services use. |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              |  |
| Website publication Date:    |  |

