

## 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.



**For Democratic Services use.**

Website publication Date: