

Cotswold District Council is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the district as one of the best places to live, work and visit in the UK. We provide a range of important services including waste and recycling collections, planning, housing, leisure, community safety and environmental health. The Council has an ambitious Council Plan focussed on a range of important priorities including climate action, strong local communities, and a vibrant district economy. We want to deliver excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council. We also want to continue working in close partnership with our local communities and other important partners.

We are currently looking for Independent Persons who can help strengthen our governance and assist in fulfilling our statutory duties relating to the elected members of the Council, specifically to assist with standards matters.

The Council promotes and maintains high standards of conduct through its Monitoring Officer. Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council has adopted a Members' Code of Conduct, which reflects the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

The Council has arrangements in place for dealing with any allegations that the Code has been breached by an elected member of Cotswold District Council or one of the town or parish councils in the district. The Act requires that, before a decision is taken on an allegation, the Council's Monitoring Officer seeks the views of a duly appointed Independent Person.

Independent Persons also have a further role and are involved if the authority is considering dismissing one of its statutory officers (the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer or Monitoring Officer).

Independent Persons must be able to act objectively, impartially and in confidence, making reasoned judgements based on evidence. They should have a demonstrable interest in local democracy and local government, and an enthusiasm to develop a sound understanding of the ethical and regulatory framework relating to member standards.

Terms of appointment:

Independent persons will be appointed for a fixed term. There's an annual payment of £1000 per annum, plus a mileage allowance.

Selection:

Candidates must be able to demonstrate a high degree of personal integrity. Some knowledge of the role of councillors would be advantageous but is not essential. The successful applicant will receive specific training to enable them to undertake the role effectively

Please note that you are not eligible for appointment if:

1. you are an elected member or officer of any local authority, this includes town and parish councils;

2. you have a close personal relationship with an elected member or officer of the Council;
3. has a public profile in party politics including a role on the management or selection committee(s) of a registered political party or who has been a candidate or canvasser for a registered political party at local or national election; or
4. has an existing relationship with Cotswold District Council that could cause a potential conflict of interest such as a contractual relationship with the Council as a supplier.
5. you are under 18 years of age.

If you are interested in applying please email your CV, together with a covering letter setting out why are interested in the role by no later than 7 June 2024.