

Independent Persons

Are you interested in making a difference in your community and contributing to the promotion of ethical behaviour? Do you think you could provide impartial advice on formal complaints? If so, both Sutton Council and Kingston Council are looking for someone like you to become an 'Independent Person'.

As an Independent Person for Governance, you will support the Monitoring Officers of Sutton Council and Kingston Council and provide an independent view on Code of Conduct complaints submitted against members of the councils.

Key aspects of the role include:

- Providing advice to the Monitoring Officer in considering allegations that a councillor/co-opted member has breached the council's Code of Conduct.
- Occasional attendance at evening meetings of Sutton Council's Audit and Governance Committee and Kingston Council's Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, for which reasonable expenses will be paid.
- Attendance at meetings of Sutton and Kingston Councils' Code of Conduct Panels, where necessary, for which reasonable expenses will be paid.

As an Independent Person, you will not be a council employee. However, you will work closely with the Monitoring Officers, their deputies, and colleagues in reviewing Code of Conduct complaints. Reasonable expenses will be paid in the discharge of your role.

As a voluntary position, you will not be expected to work to a specific schedule but will correspond with the Monitoring Officers and other officers via phone and/or email when your advice is sought. The expected average time commitment for an Independent Person is only one or two hours per week.

It is essential that you:

- Are familiar with the Seven Principles of Public Life (the "Nolan Principles").

It is desirable that you:

- Have previous experience as an Independent Person.
- Are qualified or experienced in legal or governance matters.

An Independent Person cannot be:

- a member, co-opted member or officer of Sutton Council or Kingston Council, nor have been one during the last five years;
- a relative, or close friend, of a person who fulfils the criteria above.

For a confidential discussion or enquiries about this role, please email either or both of the following:

Sutton Council: Matthew Stickley, Committee Services Manager
matthew.stickley@sutton.gov.uk

Kingston Council: Gary Marson, Corporate Head of Democratic and Electoral Services
(Deputy Monitoring Officer)
gary.marson@kingston.gov.uk

To find out more about the role and submit an application please [visit the council's website](#).
The closing date is 23:55 on Sunday 15 January 2023.

