

INDEPENDENT PERSONS FOR STANDARDS MATTERS



The East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) is seeking to appoint two Independent Persons for Standards Matters.

EMCCA promotes and maintains high standards of conduct through its Monitoring Officer and Audit & Governance Committee. Under the Localism Act 2011, the council has adopted a Members' Code of Conduct, which reflects the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

EMCCA has arrangements in place for dealing with any allegations that the code has been broken by its Mayor or its members. The act requires that, before a decision is taken on an allegation, the monitoring officer will seek the views of a duly appointed independent person.

You will be supported in your role via a member induction which will assist you in understanding the work of the Mayor, EMCCA and its governance arrangements. You will also be invited to participate in additional relevant training to support your continuing professional development.

About the East Midlands Combined Authority

East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) is the country's first Combined County Authority, coming into being in March 2024. The first elected Mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority was elected in May 2024.

EMCCA covers the four local authority areas of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby City and Nottingham City and represents a collaboration between these local authorities, working together through powers and funding granted to it through devolution.

Through our strong partnerships with key stakeholders across the region, we have developed a comprehensive set of investment priorities aimed at creating jobs, growing businesses and infrastructure improvements across the region. Our areas of focus will be transport, infrastructure development, housing, delivering on our Net Zero goals and economic development.

About the role of Independent Person

Independent Persons are able to act objectively, impartially and in confidence, making reasoned judgements based on evidence.

They have a demonstrable interest in local democracy and local government, with enthusiasm to develop a sound understanding of the ethical and regulatory framework relating to Member standards.

Independent Persons will assist EMCCA in promoting high standards of conduct by the Mayor and elected, appointed and co-opted members of the Authority. They play a key role in upholding the Code of Conduct adopted by the Combined County Authority and the seven principles of public office, namely selflessness, honesty, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and leadership.

An Independent Person will be consulted on any decision to investigate complaints covered by the Code of Conduct and before a decision is made on an investigated complaint. The Independent Person may be consulted on other standards matters, including by the Member who is subject to an allegation.

Key Responsibilities

- To be consulted and to give views in accordance with the Constitution of the Combined County Authority.
- To be available for consultation before a decision is taken as to whether to investigate a complaint or to seek local resolution of the same.
- To be available for consultation by any Member who is the subject of a standards complaint.
- To develop a sound understanding of the ethical framework as it operates within the Combined County Authority.
- To participate in training events to develop skills, knowledge, and experience and in networks developed for Independent Persons operating outside the Combined County Authority's area.
- To attend training events organised and promoted by the Authority's relevant Committees.
- To act as advocate and ambassador for the Combined County Authority in promoting ethical behaviour.
- To participate as an Independent Person in any Disciplinary Panel set up to make recommendations on any disciplinary actions in respect of a Chief Officer

Person Specification and Behaviours

- Personal integrity and honesty
- A keen interest and commitment to maintaining high standards in public life.
- A wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy
- An interest in and awareness of the functions of local government relating to ethical governance, in particular the role of elected Members and the relevant Codes of Conduct.
- Independence, impartiality, and experience of exercising sound objective judgements in relation to complex matters
- Excellent questioning, analytical and evaluation skills in order to advise whether a breach of the Code of Conduct or complaint should be investigated.
- A commitment to promoting equality and an awareness of the issues affecting the communities of the EMCCA region.
- Excellent communication skills, in particular the ability to provide a clear rationale for advice and to explain the reasons for decision making when required.
- Experience of dealing with private and sensitive issues, exercising discretion, and maintaining confidentiality of information received.
- Flexibility to deal with urgent requests.
- Aged 18 or over and with a mature and sound temperament

Skills

The ability to:

- Understand complex issues and demonstrate judgment in dealing with them
- Embrace and acknowledge the importance of accountability and probity in public life
- Interpret information and come to a rational conclusion
- Demonstrate objectivity, integrity, discretion and effective interpersonal skills

Exclusions

An Independent Person will not be:

- A Member, Co-Opted Member or employee of EMCCA or any of its constituent councils; or have held such a role within the previous 5 years.
- A relative or close friend of such a person; or
- A member of a political party

Candidates must be over the age of 18 and be able to attend meetings in the East Midlands during the working day.

Appointment and Allowances

Successful applicants will be appointed for 2 years and remunerated for the services that they provide. An allowance of £1000 per annum will be paid together with reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

How to apply

If you think you have the skills and experience along with the passion to join us, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Alongside an up-to-date CV, you should submit a supporting statement that responds to the requirements set out above. This statement should be no more than 2,000 words.

This should be submitted to the Human Resources Team via email to Operations@eastmidsdevo.org.uk but no later than 12noon on 19th August.

Interviews will take place on the afternoon of week commencing 26th August at the Northgate Enterprise Centre, Chesterfield S40 1UT.

For further information, or to arrange an informal discussion about the role, please email: Jodie.Townsend@eastmidsdevo.org.uk

Diversity in Public Appointments

In line with the Government's Diversity Action Plan, we recognise the importance of public appointees being drawn from all aspects of the society that they serve.

We are committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity to all, irrespective of sex, marital status, pregnancy or maternity leave, civil partnership status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religious belief, race, disability, and age