

**Brief Biography of candidates for independent person for standards**Claire Jenkins:

Claire Jenkins currently serves as an Independent Person, having been appointed in 2019. Claire is a retired psychiatrist and medical psychotherapist with about thirty years of experience working in the NHS. After her retirement, Claire and her husband moved to Hereford in 2015 to build the Passivhaus in which they now live. Furthermore, as a member of a community group, Grassroots, Claire was involved in working to help increase sustainability and social cohesion in Bartonsham, where she and her husband were living during the building of their Passivhaus. Claire volunteered for several years with Home-Start Hereford, visiting families in difficulties to offer support and served as a member of the steering group of the Herefordshire Women's equality group and started attending Council meetings as part of their group's work to encourage greater representation of women and attention to the issues which most affect them. It is this which has brought home to her the importance of the Council and its work and led her to take on the role of Independent Person.

Jake Bharier:

Jake Bharier currently serves as an Independent Person, having been appointed in 2019. Jake served as an independent member of the Herefordshire Council Standards Committee from 2008 to 2013, and was appointed as vice-chair of the committee in 2011. Jake spent twenty years working for Courtaulds plc, a large multinational chemicals company at corporate level, in the area of health, safety and environment. Additionally, Jake worked for Skillshare International for twenty years, an international development non-governmental organisation. Jake has substantial experience of governance, having also represented British NGOs in CONCORD, and was elected to the board of CONCORD in 2004, and appointed Treasurer thereafter. Since Jake retired from full-time employment in 2012, he currently has three other voluntary roles including: being a trustee of the international development NGO, Action on Poverty; a trustee of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; and both as an active member and chair of Much Birch Surgery Patient Participation Group.

Michelle Morgan:

Michelle Morgan currently works for Publica Group Limited as Marketing and Communications Manager in which she has worked closely with Democratic Services, Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, Leaders, Cabinet Members and officers across the three District Councils her team supports. Michelle has over ten years' experience of working in local government including Herefordshire Council from 2012-17 as Communications Officer, working on projects such as Old Market, City Link Road and Hereford Bypass. As a result, Michelle has gained a comprehensive understanding of the working of local democracy. Through Michelle's extensive experience of working within local government, she has a good understanding of the standards required to hold public office.

James Cooke:

James Cooke currently works as a civil servant for the Welsh Government where he has accumulated experience through a range of environmental and agricultural policy areas. During this time, James has been involved in performing due-diligence appraisals for food manufacturing business grants and has a further thirteen years of experience working in the planning system including assessing planning applications for mineral extraction and developments of national significance. In addition to his work, James serves as a Special Constable for Dyfed Powys Police, a role he began in 2012. In his voluntary role as a Special Constable, James has earned

several awards and chose to apply for the role of independent person as he believes in upholding and promoting high standards of conduct for those in public roles. James wants to use and apply the experience gained at Welsh Government and Dyfed Powys Police in a new context.