

ITEM

ITEM

Council – 13 September 2007

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Report of Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer

Statutory Powers: Local Government Act 2000

Financial Implications: None arising from this Report

Purpose

1. The Council needs to consider the recommendations of the appointments panel in the course of making appointments to the Standards Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That Council RESOLVES that the following are appointed to the Standards Board as co-opted Members for a period of 4 years from the effective dated of 13 September 2007:-

- **Independent Chairman: Mr M Winterton;**
- **Independent Member: Mr R Alison;**
- **Parish Representative: Mr P Dredge.**

Background

2. At the meeting of Council held on 27 March 2003 the Council resolved to do the following:-
 - a) Appoint an independent chairman in line with the prescribed legislative process and requirements
 - b) Appoint an additional independent member (two Independent Members are necessary to comply with the regulations because 25% of the Committee must be Independent Members.
 - c) Appoint one Parish Representative. This was later increased to two representatives, although the regulations only require one Parish Representative.
 - d) Appoint a panel (“the appointments panel”) to make recommendations to the Council on individual appointments.
3. At Annual Council 2007, Councillors Date and Carson were appointed as the elected members on the committee. The appointments panel was convened to interview and make recommendations for the Independent and Parish Representatives. This is on the basis that the previous appointments in 2003 were for four year terms and, therefore, fresh appointments had to be made in Autumn 2007.

4. The outgoing Chairman, Mr I Stolliday, was not able to sit further since he was moving to the north of England. Other Parish Representatives were no longer available. The Vice Chairman did wish to continue his membership of the Committee and a recommendation for the Chairmanship, as set out below, is put before Members.

The Selection Process

5. The vacancies were advertised in local newspapers as required by the 2001 Regulations. Invitations were sent out to Parish Councils to nominate suitable (and willing) candidates for the Parish Representative role. The appointments panel was gratified by the number of applications received and the quality of those applications.
6. The appointments panel interviewed short listed candidates.

Recommendations of the Appointments Panel

7. The appointments panel make the following recommendations of appointments to Council:

Independent Chairman: Mr M Winterton

Independent Member: Mr R Alison

Parish Representative: Mr P Dredge

8. It is recommended that those appointments be made for a period of four years from the effective date of appointment i.e. 13 September 2007 or upon earlier mutual determination by the parties or upon earlier resignation from office by the postholder. Of course the term of the Parish Representative is in any event dependent on continuing to be a parish councillor.
9. It was felt that in 2003 a term of four years would provide some continuity over a period of elections and would help to ensure that the Council did not find itself at any time without an effective standards committee. This aspect is particularly important when it is borne in mind that the committee will be required to adjudicate on cases without delay and within a tight statutory timetable.
10. It is suggested that the Independent Chairman's honorarium is reviewed as part of the periodic review of allowances for members.
11. The interview panel considered that it would be advisable to make arrangements for a Parish Council Representative to be co-opted to the Standards Committee if, for any reason, the permanent Parish Council Representative was unavailable. When the committee is considering an allegation against a Parish Councillor, it must have a Parish Rep sitting on the committee. In order to facilitate this, it is suggested that the Head of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Standards Committee, be authorised to co-opt a Parish Representative to the Standards Committee solely where there is a requirement for a Parish Representative to sit on the committee and the sitting member is unavailable.

Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to provide a committee to conduct the statutory duties of the Council in relation to the Standard's regime.	To approve appoints to the Standards Committee

Human Rights

12. There are no human rights issues arising directly from this report but investigations and adjudications will be crammed with them and will need careful and thorough assessment throughout.

Kevin Williams
Monitoring Officer

Council
13 September 2007

Background Documents: None