

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval to the appointment of the two independent representatives and one Parish representative to the Standards Committee.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Standards Committee is an integral part of the new political structure. As Members have agreed, its membership of 8 will comprise 5 District Councillors, 2 independent members and 1 Parish Council representative. This report suggests the process for recruiting both the 2 independent members and the Parish member. Although the new system will be trialed in March and April, it is not anticipated that the Standards Committee will need to meet until the new political structure becomes fully operational post May elections. Thus, the timetable for recruitment is to have the 2 independent members and the Parish member appointed by that date.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Independent Members

It is suggested that the 2 independent members to the Standards Committee be appointed in the same way that the 3 independent members to the Remuneration Panel were appointed; by public advertisement with both the process and selection delegated to the Chief Executive. A brief resume describing the qualities required for the posts are attached as Appendix 1. It is suggested that the appointments be made on a 4 year basis to tie in with the District Council's electoral cycle.

3.2 Parish Member

To secure a Parish representative, it is suggested that the District Council convene and chair a meeting of all the Parish/Town Councils, the purpose of which would be to determine a suitable Parish/Town Council nomination. Prior to the meeting, Parishes would be asked to put forward suitable candidates for consideration and at the meeting, each Parish would be afforded a single vote. The successful candidate would then be appointed as the Parish/Town Councils' representative.

As for duration of office, given the differing election cycles of the various Parishes and Town Council, it is suggested that the nomination be on a yearly basis, running in tandem with the municipal year.

3.3 Remuneration

For both the independent members and the Parish Council representative, remuneration would need to be in line with the recommendations of the Remuneration Panel, as agreed or amended by the District Council.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The establishment and composition of the Standards Committee arises out of the Local Government Act 2000.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is proposed that this Sub Committee approves the recruitment process, together with duration of tenure, suggested for the independent members and Parish Council representative as outlined in this report.

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Chief Executive

Background Papers:

Local Government Act 2000

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