

## **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make arrangements for the appointment of Independent Persons and Parish Representatives for a four-year term, commencing from the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Council on 19 April 2016 delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to appoint three Independent Persons to the Standards Committee for a four-year term commencing in the 2016/17 Municipal Year, following a recruitment process as set out in the officer report.
- 2.2 At this meeting Council also appointed three Parish Councillors, to be nominated by the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils, to the Standards Committee for a four-year term commencing in the 2016/17 Municipal Year.
- 2.3 These appointments expire at the end of this Municipal Year.

### **3 PARISH REPRESENTATIVES/INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

#### **Appointment of Parish Representatives**

- 3.1 In terms of the three Parish Council Members, the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils will nominate these for a term of four years commencing in the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

#### **Appointment of Independent Persons**

- 3.2 Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 the Council must appoint at least one Independent Person to work with the Standards Committee/Monitoring Officer. To provide for resilience, the Council currently has three Independent Persons and it is recommended that this position is retained.
- 3.3 There is a requirement to advertise the position of Independent Person publicly and go through a recruitment process. In view of the need to have arrangements in place for the new Municipal Year, the Monitoring Officer will place the required advertisement on the Council's website to recruit three Independent Persons as representatives on the Standards Committee. Applicants will need to submit written applications by a given deadline.

- 3.4 Regulations allow for current Independent Persons to be re-appointed. In recognition of their experience and knowledge, the Monitoring Officer will contact the three existing Independent Persons to see if they would wish to continue in the role for a further four years. If so, they can apply for the role through the recruitment process as advertised.
- 3.5 The successful candidates, as determined by the recruitment process, will be appointed for a four-year term commencing in the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

#### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Parish Representatives and Independent Persons will attract the Co-optees Allowance identified in the Constitution (£500 per annum).

#### **5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The appointment of the Independent Persons is a legislative requirement. The Committee on Standards in Public Life report on local government ethical standards (January 2019) has recommended that the legislation is amended to appoint Independent Persons for a fixed term of two years, renewable once. However, there has been no indication from central government that this variation will take place. Given the difficulty in attracting applicants to the position it is considered that maintaining the current recruitment process is necessary to fulfil the legislative requirement.

#### **6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

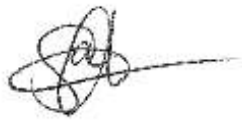
- 6.1 The Standards regime covers both District and Parish/Town Councillors.

#### **7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

#### **8 RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**
- (1) To endorse the appointment of the three Parish Councillors, to be nominated by the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils, to the Standards Committee for a four-year term commencing in the 2020/21 municipal year.
  - (2) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to appoint three Independent Persons to the Standards Committee for a four-year term commencing in the 2020/21 Municipal Year following a recruitment process as laid out in the report.



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**Background Papers:-**

None.

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