

**Subject:** Recruitment of Non-Elected  
Independent Members

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:**  
Standards  
Council

**Date:**  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2009  
7th October 2009

**Report of:** Executive Director - Business

**Portfolio Holder:** Finance and Resources

**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report sets out the proposed process for the recruitment and appointment of Non-Elected Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

## 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering quality services to our customers.

## 3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Council has an obligation to have sufficient Independent members on Committee to discharge its functions and there is a risk if the Council does not have a clear transparent process on appointing Independent Members.

## 4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 provides guidance on the role and make up of standards committees. The Regulations are mandatory and must be taken into account by the Council.

4.2 Independent Members are important in helping increase public confidence in local government. They provide a clear signal that the standards committee

acts fairly and impartially. Independent Members also bring a wider perspective from their outside experiences. There is no limit to the number of independent Members you can have on your standards committee.

- 4.3 This Council's Standards Committee currently comprises seven Elected Members, two Members of Whitworth Town Council and three Independent Members.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

#### **5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 5.1 Any financial implications (allowances, etc) are included in the Council's annual budget. There are therefore no further material budget implications arising from the report.

#### **6. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 6.1 Comments included in the report.

#### **7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

- 7.1 No HR implications.

#### **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 Legislation is clear that local authorities have a duty to set up a Standards Committee and that 25% of the members of the Committee must always be independent members.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 9.1 That the Standards Committee approves the procedure for the appointment of Independent Members.

#### **10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 10.1 N/A

#### **11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Community Impact Assessment required **No**

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached **No**

#### **12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required **No**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached

**No**

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No background papers