

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 25 JUNE 2008

REPORT BY MONITORING OFFICER

9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER(S)

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that XXXX and XXXX be appointed to the Council's Standards Committee for a term expiring at the Annual Meeting in May 2011.

1.0 Background

1.1 Council, at its Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2008, considered the establishment of its Standards Committee.

1.2 It agreed to constitute this Committee on the basis detailed in the following narrative. In so doing, it created vacant seats for independent members (non-councillors).

2.0 Contributions to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 The proposals set out in this report will support all of the Council's corporate objectives.

3.0 Standards Committee

3.1 The Council previously established a Standards Committee consisting of one District Council Member from each political group of four Members or more, one Parish Council member, one Town Council member and two independent members.

3.2 The following two independent Members were appointed for a two year term in 2006 following a selection and interview process:

Mr A Walker
Mr J Morphew

- 3.3 Mr Walker gave notice of his resignation from the Committee (with effect from the Annual meeting in 2008).
- 3.4 Taking Mr Walker's resignation into account, together with legislative changes arising from the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health 2007, Council approved the establishment of a Standards Committee consisting of 4 District councillors (of whom at least 1 should be from each political party with four or more Members), 1 Town Council Member, 2 Parish Council Members and 3 independent members. Mr Morpew was re-appointed (until 2011) to one of the seats allocated to independent members.
- 3.5 The size of the Committee reflects Standards Board guidance on this matter to take account of the local determination of complaints process.
- 3.6 A recruitment process to fill the vacancies in respect of independent members of the Committee was duly implemented. It should be noted that a person is only eligible to become an independent member if they meet the following criteria:
- They have not been a member or employee of the authority for five years before the date of the appointment
 - They are not a member or officer of any authority currently
 - They are not a close relative or close friend of a member or employee of the authority
 - They have filled in an application for the position
 - They have been approved by the majority of members of the Authority
 - The position has been advertised in at least one newspaper distributed in the Authority's area.
- 3.7 At the time of writing, the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer are to interview candidates to fill the vacant seats allocated to independent members. The outcome of this interview will be reported orally at the meeting.
- 4.0 Consultation
- 4.1 The vacancies for independent members on the Standards Committee were publically advertised in local newspapers. Applications packs were issued to several interested individuals.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The proposals set out in this report accord with the statutory provisions for constituting the Council's Standards Committee.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

8.1 The Council needs to establish a Standards Committee that takes account of legislative requirements to enable it to function effectively.

Background Papers

None

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