

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE ACTING MONITORING OFFICER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Further to the recruitment process to fill the co-opted Parish Councillor vacancy on the Standards Committee, Council is asked to approve the appointment of the successful candidate.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council confirms the appointment of Councillor Helena Gregory (Codicote Parish Council) as non-voting co-optee of the Standards Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure Parish Council input into the considerations of the Standards Committee and Sub-Committee in accordance with the approach previously approved by Council.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Applications were received from three other Parish Councillors, but they are not nominated for the reasons set out in paragraph 8.1 below.
- 4.2 Alternative options for the formation of the Standards Committee were considered and discounted by Council in the previous decisions relating to the implementation of the post-Localism Act standards regime.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 None undertaken.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 On forming the current Standards Committee, Council decided to include two non-voting co-opted Parish Councillors to ensure Parish Council perspective was available to the Standards Committee. The Council has a vacancy due to the death of the previous post-holder.

- 7.2 All Parish Councils within the District were contacted in order to promote the opportunity to be co-opted to the Standards Committee. Four expressions of interest were received and applicants were asked to complete a simple application form. Four applications were received and all four applicants were invited for interview, although one was unable to attend due to ill-health.

8. ISSUES

- 8.1 The remaining three applicants were interviewed on 7 October 2015 by the Acting Monitoring Officer, the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person. All three applicants were scored against the criteria for the post (attached at appendix A) and all three were suitable for the role on the Standards Committee. After the interview the highest scoring candidate withdrew due to a potential conflict with another role. Of the remaining two, the successful candidate provided examples from work or parish life which more closely matched what was being asked and therefore scored better against the criteria being considered.
- 8.2 The candidate proposed is Councillor Helena Gregory, a parish councillor for nearly seven years and former Chairman of Codicote Parish Council. It is considered that Councillor Gregory will provide an excellent parish perspective for the Standards Committee.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Council's terms of reference include at 4.4.1(s) "adopting and amending the Authority's Code of Conduct for members and other codes and protocols comprising the ethical framework".
- 9.2 Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to have in place arrangements under which decisions on allegations against Councillors can be made.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no capital or revenue implications arising from the appointment of the two Parish Councillors to the Standards Committee.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council needs to ensure it complies with its statutory obligations as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give **due regard** to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 As the recommendation made in this report does not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A – Selection Criteria.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 None.