

COUNCIL 18 JANUARY 2018
--

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
----------------------------------	---

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

REPORT OF THE ACTING MONITORING OFFICER
EXECUTIVE MEMBER: [NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTION]
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE: RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. For Full Council to approve the co-optee appointment to the Standards Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Council confirms the appointment of Councillor Gary Hills (Great Ashby Community 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 The applicant was considered an appropriate co-optee for the role, so no other option was relevant.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1. The Independent and Reserve Independent Person (IPs) have been involved review and preparation of the selection criteria, forms and interview questions and panel.

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 resignation 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. One application was received and the applicant was interviewed on 12 December 2017 by a Panel consisting of the Acting Monitoring Officer, the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The applicant was scored against the criteria for the post (attached at Appendix A) and considered suitable for the role on the Standards Committee.
- 8.2. The co-optee proposed is Councillor Gary Hills, a Community Councillor since 2011. The Panel considered that Councillor Hills will provide an effective parish perspective for the Standards Committee. The appointment will continue so long he remains a Community Councillor or resign from the Standards Committee – whichever is the earlier date.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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. Section 102(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that Council may appoint such persons to a Committee or Sub-Committee for such term as may be determined by the appointing authority.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no capital or revenue implications arising from the content of this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Appropriate policy frameworks help to ensure that the authority has good governance arrangements in place. The adopted arrangements include two Parish Council co-optees on the Standards Committee. This appointment ensures compliance with those arrangements.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their 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.
- 12.2 There are no direct implications from the appointment of Parish Councillor co-optees to the Standards Committee, other than providing a local community perspective.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no direct human resource implications relating to this matter.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix A – Selection criteria.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

16.1. Jeanette Thompson 01462 474370. Acting Monitoring Officer:
jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 Email and documents sent to Parish Councils on 14 November 2017.