



**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:  
3 June 2010**

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**Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor**

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**SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE**

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Borough wide interest

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider the appointment of a parish representative to the Standards Committee.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Council Secretary and Solicitor be given authority, in consultation with the Leader, to appoint the nominee with the highest number of votes received, as Parish Representative until the Annual Meeting in May 2012, once the appointment process is complete as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.

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**3.0 PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**

3.1 Standards for England recommend a minimum of three parish council representatives on the Standards Committee and the Council has decided to have this number, although the legal minimum is two. This is to avoid situations where the Parish representative is conflicted out and in order to fulfil the requirement for a Parish representative to be present when considering Parish matters. The length of time they serve on the committee is currently four years. The Council determines its own recruitment process for Parish representatives, which involves Parish Councils in a fair and open manner.

3.2 The current four year term of office for Parish Councillor Representatives is not due to expire until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2012. However, Parish Councillor Hammond has resigned as a Parish Councillor and is not longer entitled to serve on the Committee.

- 3.3 All Parish Clerks have been contacted advising them of the vacancy and all, with the exception of Downholland and Tarleton have been invited to submit the name of a member they would wish to fill the vacancy on the Standards Committee by 1 July 2010. Downholland and Tarleton already have members appointed therefore they are not able to nominate but will be able to vote. In that invitation Parish Clerks were advised that the member nominated would be appointed until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2012, that he/she should not be a Borough Councillor and ideally should not be a close friend of any member or officer of the Borough Council. All nominees are required to prepare a brief personal profile.
- 3.4 Upon receipt of the nominations all Parish Clerks will be contacted again requesting their Parish Council to vote for one candidate from the list of nominees. They have been advised that the candidate with the highest number of votes would be considered for appointment to serve on the Standards Committee for 2010/11 and 2011/2012.
- 3.5 As previously agreed, if the 3 appointed representatives are unavailable for any reason, including being conflicted out, in an emergency, a Parish representative can be appointed on a temporary basis, in the first instance by going to the other nominees put forward.
- 3.6 There is insufficient time, due to the frequency of Parish Council meetings for voting to take place in time for Council on 21 July 2010. To avoid delays in appointing a Parish Representative over the summer months I am suggesting authority be delegated to me to appoint the nominee with the highest number of votes received. This will enable a new Parish Representative to be in place at the earliest opportunity.

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 4.1 Promotion of high ethical standards at a local level assists in demonstrating that the Council is an ethical organisation.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An allowance of £250 is paid to the Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee in recognition of their role as detailed in the 'Scheme of Members Allowances'.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 There are no significant management risks arising from this report and a Parish Representative should be appointed. However changes are expected with the Standards regime and members will be updated accordingly.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

### **Appendices:**

None