

CHESHIRE EAST

Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 7 October 2008
Report of: Governance Group
Title: Recruitment Process for Independent and Parish Council Standards Committee members

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the ongoing recruitment process for Independent and Parish Council representatives.

2.0 Decisions Required

- 2.1 To note progress with regard to the process for selection of Independent Members and to recommend to full Council on 20 October that:
- a) the applicants set out in 4.2 of this report be appointed to the five Independent Member places.
 - b) The applicants set out in 4.3 of this report be noted on a reserve list in case of future vacancies amongst the five Independent Member places.
- 2.2 To approve the proposed timetable for appointment of Parish Council members.

3.0 Information

- 3.1 Cheshire East Shadow Council set the composition of the Standards Committee as being 5 Independent members, 3 Parish Council members and 8 Cheshire East members forming a membership of 16 in total. The Committee and any sub-committees which are established will need be chaired by an Independent member.
- 3.2 The recruitment process for Independent and Parish Council members was considered by the Committee on 8 July 2008. It was resolved that:
1. Approval be given to recruit Independent Members from the existing pool of Borough and County Council independent members;
 2. The job description and person specification for independent members be approved;
 3. Councillors John Hammond, Mike Parsons and Lesley Smetham be appointed to a panel of members of the Committee to interview and recommend the appointment of Independent Members to the Committee;

4. The Cheshire Association of Local Councils be approached to conduct a nomination process for the recruitment of Parish Council representatives with one nomination coming from each of the three districts;
5. The job description and person specification for the Parish Council representatives be approved subject to the wording being brought into line with that for the Independent Members.

4.0 Recruitment of Independent Members

4.1 The Panel met on 15 August to consider applications which had been sought and received from seven of the existing Independent Members and to interview each of the candidates.

4.2 The Panel decided to recommend “that the following five applicants be appointed as independent members of the Standards Committee:

Mr Nigel Briers (Independent Chairman, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council)

Mr Ian Clark (Independent Chairman, Macclesfield Borough Council)

Mr Michael Garratt (Independent Member, Congleton Borough Council)

Mr Roger Pomlett (Independent Member, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council)

Mr David Sayer (Independent Chairman, Congleton Borough Council)”

4.3 The Panel also decided to recommend that “a reserve list of Independent members be created in case of future vacancies on the Standards Committee and that the remaining two applicants be placed on the reserve list:

Mr Harry Mawdsley (Independent Member, Congleton Borough Council)

Mr John Ross (Independent Member, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council)”

5.0 Recruitment of Parish Members

5.1 The Committee needs to recruit 3 Parish Councillors to act as members of the Committee. Parish representatives must be present whenever the Committee meets to discuss Parish issues.

5.2 At its last meeting, the Committee agreed that the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) would be approached to assist in the recruitment process.

5.3 As part of a joint process with Cheshire West and Chester Council, an approach has been made to the Cheshire Association which has agreed to assist in the recruitment process. The agreed job description and person specification together with some background to new authority has been forwarded to the Association in order that it can carry out the required process and nominate 3 Parish representatives. The Cheshire Association has confirmed that the pack will be sent out to all Parish Councils.

- 5.4 The proposed timetable for the recruitment of Parish representatives is detailed below.

Task	Deadline	Completed
Letter to ChALC	w/c 1 September	Completed
Standards Committee consider nominations from ChALC	November/early December (subject to arrangement of meeting)	
Recommendation to Council	as above	
Agreement by Council	9 December	

- 5.5 ChALC has been asked to forward nominations no later than 31 October 2008.

6.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 6.1 The costs of recruitment will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 Future Implication 2009/10 and beyond

- 7.1 Future recruitment costs (including any external adverts) will only be incurred in 2011 assuming the term of office is until 2011.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council is required to have at least 25% membership of this Committee who are Independents and also have Parish Council representation on its Standards Committee.

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The recruitment of Independent and Parish representatives will fulfil the legal requirements placed on the Shadow Council, and so manage the risk of failing to meet its legal obligations.

10.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 10.1 The Committee needs to be able to deal with complaints about Cheshire East Councillors during 2008/2009. The earlier the necessary Independent and Parish member appointments can be made, the sooner the Committee can be ready to deal with complaints. It needs to be able to deal with complaints against Parish Councillors from 1 April 2009. Recruitment to the vacant positions will mean there is proper preparation for all Day One, Year One and Term one Issues.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

N/a