

CHESHIRE EAST

COUNCIL

Date of meeting: 20th October 2008
Report of: Interim Monitoring Officer
Title: Appointment of Independent Members to Standards Committee

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek the approval of full Council to the appointment of five Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 That the Council appoints the five applicants set out in 7.4 below as Independent Members of its Standards Committee:

Mr Nigel Briers (currently Independent Chairman of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr Ian Clark (currently Independent Chairman of Macclesfield Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr Michael Garratt (currently an Independent member of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr Roger Pomlett (currently an Independent member of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr David Sayer (currently Independent Chairman of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee).

- 2.2 That the reserve list of applicants in 7.5 be noted.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for Transition Costs.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for 2009/10 and beyond.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council is required to have at least 25% of the membership of its Standards Committee who are Independents, an Independent Chairman, and Parish Council representation. Once recruitment is completed, the Council will be fully compliant with the relevant legislation.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The recruitment of Independent and Parish representatives, which this report progresses, will fulfil the legal requirements placed on the Council and thereby manage the risk of failing to meet these legal obligations.

7.0 Background

- 7.1 Cheshire East Council has set the composition of its Standards Committee as being comprised of 5 Independent members, 3 Parish Council members and 8 Cheshire East members forming a membership of 16 in total. The 8 Cheshire East elected members were appointed to the Committee on 13 May 2008. The Committee itself and its sub-committees which are to be established will need be chaired by an Independent member.
- 7.2 The recruitment process for the appointment of 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.
- 7.3 The Panel met on 15 August to consider applications which had been sought and received from existing Independent Members and to interview each of the candidates.
- 7.4 The Panel decided to recommend the following candidates for appointment to the five available Independent Member places:
- Mr Nigel Briers (currently Independent Chairman of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee)
Mr Ian Clark (currently Independent Chairman of Macclesfield Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr Michael Garratt (currently an Independent member of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr Roger Pomlett (currently an Independent member of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr David Sayer (currently Independent Chairman of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee).

- 7.5 The Panel also recommended 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 of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee)

Mr John Ross (Independent Member of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee)

- 7.6 With regard to the need to recruit three Parish Council members to the Standards Committee, the Cheshire Association of Parish Councillors (ChALC) has agreed to contact individual members of its member Councils to seek applicants. ChALC will be submitting a list of three candidates which will be considered by the Standards Committee at its next meeting so that a recommendation as to the appointment of Parish members can be placed before full Council on 9 December.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 This report progresses recruitment to the Standards Committee.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

Documents are available for inspection at:

Cheshire East Shadow Council Support Office
Congleton Borough Council
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach

