

# CHESHIRE EAST

## Standards Committee

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**Date of meeting:** 25 November 2008  
**Report of:** Governance Group  
**Title:** Recruitment Process for Parish Council Standards Committee members

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### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the ongoing recruitment process for Parish Council representatives and make a recommendation on appointments.

### 2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To note progress on the selection procedure for Parish Council Members of the Standards Committee of Cheshire East Shadow Council and to recommend to full Council on 9 December that the applicants set out in 5.4 of this report be appointed to the three Parish Council Member places.

### 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 recruiting 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 Following a meeting of the Panel on 15 August, and the subsequent recommendation of Standards Committee on 7 October, full Council made appointments to the five Independent members positions on 20 October and this is the first meeting at which the independent members will be in attendance. The independent member recruitment process is therefore complete for the time being.

#### **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 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 was made to the Cheshire Association which had agreed to assist in the recruitment process. The agreed job description and person specification together with some background to new authority was forwarded to the Association to enable it to carry out the required process and nominate three recommended Parish representatives. The Cheshire Association sent the pack to all Parish Council clerks with a request that it be forwarded to all councillors for them to be able to make a personal decision on whether or not to apply.
- 5.4 Following the consultation, ChALC received 5 applications. As this exceeded the three places available, a panel comprised of the executive representatives from the Cheshire East area was convened to put forward three names. Criteria included degree of activity and the amount of knowledge candidates possessed about parish council matters. Through this process, the recommended candidates are:
- Councillor Teresa Maureen Eatough - Weston and Basford Parish Council  
Councillor Kenneth John Edwards - Bollington Town Council  
Councillor Patricia Margaret Barnett – Twemlow Parish Council
- 5.5 Cllr Eatough is an existing member of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee, Cllr Edwards is a member of Macclesfield Borough Council's Standards Committee and Cllr Barnett is a member of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee.
- 5.6 In the event of there being any reason why any candidate was unable to take on the role, ChALC would retain the names of the two remaining candidates as reserves.

#### **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.

## **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 fulfils the legal requirements placed on the Shadow Council, and so manages 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