

# CHESHIRE EAST

## COUNCIL

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**Date of meeting:** 9 December 2008  
**Report of:** Interim Monitoring Officer  
**Title:** Appointment of Parish Council Members to Standards Committee

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### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek the approval of full Council for the appointment of three Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee.

### **2.0 Decision Required**

- 2.1 That the Council appoints to the Standards Committee the following three applicants:
- Councillor Teresa Maureen Eatough - Weston and Basford Parish Council  
Councillor Kenneth John Edwards - Bollington Parish Council  
Councillor Patricia Margaret Barnett - Twemlow Parish Council
- 2.2 To note that ChALC will retain the names of the two remaining candidates as reserves in case of future vacancies to the Parish Council seats on Standards Committee.

### **3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

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

### **4.0 Future Implication 2009/10 and beyond**

- 4.1 Future recruitment costs (including any external adverts) will only be incurred in 2011.

### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 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. Once recruitment is complete, the Council will be fully compliant with the relevant legislation.

### **6.0 Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 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.

## **7.0 Background**

- 7.1 Cheshire East Shadow Council set the composition of the 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 members were appointed on 13 May and the 5 Independent Members were appointed on 20 October. The Committee and any sub-committees which are to be established must be chaired by an Independent member.
- 7.2 The recruitment process for Independent and Parish Council members was considered by Standards 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.
- 7.3 The Panel met on 15 August to consider Independent applications, and following the subsequent recommendation of Standards Committee on 7 October, full Council made appointments to the five Independent members positions on 20 October. The Independent Members attended their first meeting of the Standards Committee on 25 November. The independent member recruitment process is therefore complete for the time being.

## **8.0 Recruitment of Parish Members**

- 8.1 The Council must recruit 3 Parish Councillors to act as members of the Committee. Parish representatives must be present whenever the Committee meets to discuss Parish issues.
- 8.2 Standards Committee agreed that the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) would be approached to assist in the Parish Councillor recruitment process.
- 8.3 As part of a joint process with Cheshire West and Chester Council, and as agreed by the Standards Committee, an approach was made to ChALC 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.

8.4 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. On 25 November, the Standards Committee agreed to accept ChALC's recommendation to appoint the members named at 5.5. below, and now recommends this to full Council.

8.5 The recommended appointees are:

Councillor Teresa Maureen Eatough - Weston and Basford Parish Council  
Councillor Kenneth John Edwards - Bollington Parish Council  
Councillor Patricia Margaret Barnett Twemlow Parish Council

8.6 Councillor Eatough is an existing member of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's Standards Committee, Councillor Edwards is a member of Macclesfield Borough Council's Standards Committee and Councillor Barnett is a member of Congleton Borough Council's Standards Committee.

8.7 ChALC will retain the names of the two remaining candidates as reserves in case of future vacancies to the Parish Council seats on Standards Committee.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

9.1 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. Completion of the recruitment to the remaining vacant positions as recommended in this report will mean the Standards Committee is now fully constituted and prepared to undertake its role.

### **For further information:**

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### **Background Documents:**

N/a