

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	21 November 2011
Report of:	Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Subject/Title:	Appointment of Parish Council Member to Standards Committee

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report seeks to appoint a Parish Member to the current vacancy on the Standards Committee.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee recommends to Council that -

Councillor Barbara Lawton of Odd Rode Parish Council be appointed to Cheshire East Council Standards Committee as a Parish Member for the same term of office as existing Parish Members.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To fill the vacancy created by the election of the former Parish Member Councillor Ken Edwards to Cheshire East Borough Council in May 2011.
- 3.2 To ensure that the Standards Committee complies with the relevant regulations.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 None

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 None

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon Reduction - Health

- 6.1 None identified

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 As this appointment will bring the Committee up to its full compliment of members, any financial reimbursement claimed by the post holder in accordance with Paragraph 5.2 of Cheshire East Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances 2011/2012 will be within existing budgets.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council is required to have at least 25% membership of the Committee who are Independents and also to have Parish Council representation on its Standards Committee. The appointment of a third Parish Member will ensure that the Council is fully compliant with the relevant legislation and that all the places on the Standards Committee are filled.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The recruitment of Independent and Parish Members manages the risk to the Committee and Council of failing to meet its legal obligations.

10.0 Background to Nomination

- 10.1 Cheshire East Council has set the composition of the Standards Committee as comprising of 5 Independent members, 3 Parish Council members and 8 Cheshire East elected Members forming a membership of 16 in total.
- 10.2 On 9 December 2008, a report was submitted to Council seeking the appointment of three Parish Members to the Standards Committee for a period of four years. The nominations which Council subsequently approved were -
- Councillor Teresa Maureen Eatough, Weston and Basford Parish Council
 - Councillor Patricia Margaret Barnett, Twemlow Parish Council
 - Councillor Kenneth John Edwards, Bollington Parish Council
- 10.3 In May 2011, elections to Cheshire East Council were held and Councillor Ken Edwards was elected to the authority. As a Borough Councillor, by law he could no longer serve as a Parish Member thus creating a vacancy on the Committee.
- 10.4 When the Standards Committee was first appointed in 2008, it had sought nominations to the positions of Parish Member from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC). To ensure continuity, an approach was again made to ChALC to seek nominations in respect of the current vacancy.

- 10.5 A job description and person specification was forwarded to the Association to enable it to carry out the required process. Parish Councils were then invited to bring the matter to the attention of their members for them to be able to make a personal decision on whether to apply.
- 10.6 Following the consultation, ChALC received two applications which were put to a ballot. ChALC's recommended appointee is Councillor Barbara Lawton from Odd Rode Parish Council.

11.0 Access to Information

- 11.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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