

## **Appointment of Independent Members of the Standards Committee**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 To confirm the appointment of Peter Purnell and Peter McCrea as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the period ending at the Annual Meeting in May 2013.
- 1.2 To not fill the vacancy created by Cynthia McDowall's retirement in 2011 dependent on the level of workload being processed by the Committee at that time.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Each Independent Member of the Standards Committee is appointed to serve a three year term and can serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. The current chair of the Standards Committee, Canon Barrie Blowers, has now retired from his position as an Independent Member prompting our search for a new Independent Member.
- 2.2 The post was advertised on the Council's website, press releases were issued to the press and the Council's Diversity Forums were also made aware of the vacancy. Two candidates were invited for an interview and both attended.
- 2.3 The selection panel consisted of the four current independent members of the Standards Committee, Councillors Jackson and Hird (Members of the Standards Committee) and the Deputy Chief Executive Michael Foote. The panel decided to offer a position on the Standards Committee, subject to references, to both Peter Purnell and Peter McCrea such was the quality of the two candidates.
- 2.4 The appointment of both candidates will raise the number of Independent Members on the Committee to five. However, in 2011 Cynthia McDowall will also have served three consecutive terms and, like Canon Blowers, will retire from office. Therefore, at the 2011 Annual Meeting, dependent on the level of workload, the number of Independent Members on the Committee will fall back to its original level.
- 2.5 Peter Purnell is a retired Education Officer and is currently an independent member of Derbyshire County, South Derbyshire District and Erewash Borough Councils' Standards Committees.
- 2.6 Peter McCrea is part-owner and director of Milner McCrea Chartered Surveyors, a parent governor at Walter Evans C of E (Aided) School in Darley Abbey and a director and trustee of Derwent Stepping Stones.

- 2.7 The Council's policy is to stagger retirement dates, based on renewable three-year terms, and the following is proposed:

|                   | Term of office ends at Annual Meeting in: |                      |      |      |      |
|-------------------|---|----------------------|------|------|------|
|                   | 2010                                      | 2011                 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Barrie Blowers    | X<br>(end of office)                      |                      |      |      |      |
| Cynthia McDowall  |   | X<br>(end of office) |      |      |      |
| Dionne Reid       |   |                      | X    |      |      |
| Peter McCrea      |   |                      |      | X    |      |
| Peter Purnell *   |   |                      |      |      | X    |
| Philip Sunderland |   |                      | X    |      |      |

\* In order to provide annual retirements, Peter Purnell's initial term of office will be for four years.

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**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial

- 1.1 Independent Members of the Standards Committee are entitled to a Co-optee's Allowance and travel and subsistence expenses.

### Legal

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, provide that a person may not be appointed as an independent member of the authority's Standards Committee unless the appointment is:
  - (a) approved by a majority of the members of the authority
  - (b) advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the authority's area
  - (c) of a person who has submitted an application to the authority
  - (d) of a person who has not, within the period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment, been a member or officer of the authority, and
  - (e) of a person who is not a relative or close friend of a member or officer of the authority
  - (f) of a person who is not currently a member of any local authority, including a parish council, police authority or fire authority.
- 2.2 Guidance from the Standards Board for England states that the person should be independent of any political party and local government. Both Peter Purnell and Peter McCrea have confirmed that they are eligible for appointment.
- 2.3 The Council has previously determined that Independent Members may serve up to a maximum of three periods of office.

### Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising.

### Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The process for recruiting the independent members was carried out in a fair and open way so as not to disadvantage any group.

### Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The Standards Committee supports the Corporate Objective: 'To effectively manage the Council's reputation.'