



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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 To confirm the appointment of Ms Dionne Reid as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for the period ending at the Annual Meeting in May 2012.
- 1.2 To reappoint Mr Philip Sunderland as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for the period ending at the Annual Meeting in May 2012.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15 July 2008, the Council approved a recommendation of the Standards Committee to appoint an additional Independent Member of that Committee to assist with the increased workload arising from the local assessment of complaints about the conduct of elected members.
- 2.2 It was subsequently agreed to combine the recruitment and selection process for an additional independent member of the Standards Committee with a concurrent exercise to appoint two additional members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances previously authorised by the Audit and Accounts Committee. The selection panel consisted of the three current independent members of the Standards Committee, Councillor Willoughby (Vice Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee) and Ian Samways, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel. None of the councillors on the Standards Committee was available on the interview date.
- 2.3 An advertisement was placed in the Derby Evening Telegraph and seven applications were received. All applicants were invited for an interview and six attended. The panel decided to offer the position on the Standards Committee, subject to references, to Dionne Reid. Satisfactory references were subsequently received.
- 2.4 Dionne is the Chief Executive of the Derby based charity 'Women's Work' which was established in 2003 to provide respite, advice and support to female substance misusers involved in street sex work.

- 2.5 The term of office of another Independent Member of the Standards Committee – Philip Sunderland – expires at the Annual Meeting on 20 May 2009. Philip, who is a retired local authority external auditor, is willing to continue for a second three year period.
- 2.6 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:			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Philip Sunderland	X			X
Barrie Blowers		X		
Cynthia McDowall			X	
Dionne Reid				X

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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-optees 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. Dionne Reid has confirmed that she is 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 Value “We will be open, transparent and honest in everything we do.”