

Appointments to the Standards Committee

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the changes to the Standards regime in 2012, the council has had four non-councillors involved with the work of the Standards Committee – two 'independent persons' and two 'co-opted members'. All four individuals participate in discussion and debate at meetings but do not have votes. In addition, the 'independent persons' have a specific role to assist the Monitoring Officer and subjects of complaints.
- 1.2 Following the resignation of Ian Green, the committee has been operating with one Independent Person and two co-opted members. A recruitment process was undertaken and this report now seeks to confirm the appointment of a new 'independent person' on a four-year term.
- 1.3 In addition, it is proposed that the co-opted members be reappointed for a further two years to provide time for a review of the council's Standards arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To appoint Mr Stuart Green on a four-year term.
- 2.2 To note the intention to undertake a review of the council's Standards arrangements in accordance with the Public Interest Report action plan.
- 2.3 To reappoint Mr Peter Purnell and Mr Philip Sunderland as co-opted members for a further two years.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is good practice to have two independent persons so the work relating to complaints can be shared.
- 3.2 The review is timely following last year's Public Interest Report, and extending the term of two serving members will enable the committee to continue during this period.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appointment of Mr Stuart Green

- 4.1 The council advertised for independent persons to fill a number of roles in the autumn. Stuart Green applied through this process and was interviewed by a panel comprising Janie Berry (Director of Governance), David Walsh (Head of Democracy), Alan Cameron (Independent Person on Standards Committee) and Peter Purnell (Co-opted Member of Standards Committee).
- 4.2 Mr Green is an associate and examiner at the University of Derby, as well as holding substantive posts as a lecturer at both the University of Durham and the University of Newcastle. As well as being a member of a number of professional bodies, he is also an independent member of the Audit Committee on Newcastle City Council.
- 4.3 His appointment was unanimously supported by the interview panel.

Re-appointments of Mr Peter Purnell and Mr Philip Sunderland

- 4.4 Peter Purnell and Philip Sunderland have sat as co-opted members of the Standards Committee since 2012. Mr Purnell sits on a number of other committees at neighbouring authorities, as does Mr Sunderland, who is also a member of the council's independent school admission appeals panel.
- 4.5 Both are recommended for reappointment on a two-year term to provide ample time for a review of the Standards arrangements.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	David Walsh 01332 643655 david.walsh@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Non-councillors on the Standards Committee are entitled to an annual allowance of £500, as well as reasonable expenses they incur. This is provided for the in the Members' Allowances budget.

Legal

- 2.1 The council is required to provide an Independent Person to undertake various roles in relation to complaints. It is good practice to have more than one Independent Person in order that independent support can be provided to both complainant and subject member if required.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

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- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 None, save for the benefits from a risk management perspective as outlined in paragraph 2.1 above.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 None.

