
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 15
DATE OF MEETING:	2 ND OCTOBER 2008	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ANDREA McCASKIE (595831)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ARTICLE 8 OF CONSTITUTION – STANDARDS COMMITTEE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the quorum arrangements for the Standards Committee set out Article 8.01(d) of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the majority number of Independent Members, as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To review the quorum arrangements for the Standards Committee.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Members are reminded that the composition of the Standards Committee is as follows:-

- 3 District Council Members
- 3 Parish Members
- 5 Independent Members

4.2 Article 8.01(d) of the Council's Constitution sets out the quorum arrangements for the Committee, as follows:-

"The quorum of a meeting will be 3 (including at least 2 District Council Members and an Independent Member except where Parish Council business is being discussed when the quorum shall be 4 (which in addition to the above must include at least one Parish Member)."

This has remained since the Constitution was adopted in 2001, when the District Council had the majority number of Members as well as the position of Chairman.

- 4.3 However, since that time, good practice issued by the Standards Board for England has placed an emphasis on increasing the number of Independent Members, as well as the need for an Independent Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee. This is now reflected in the arrangements for this Council's Standards Committee.
- 4.4 In view of the changing arrangements since 2001, it is appropriate that the quorum arrangements for the Committee are now reviewed to reflect the majority number of Independent Members. Accordingly, the following amendment to Article 8.01(d) is recommended:-

"The quorum of a meeting will be 3 (including at least 1 District Council Member and 2 Independent Members and where Parish Council business is being discussed the quorum shall be 4 (which in addition to the above must include at least 1 Parish Member)."

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 A meeting of the Standards Committee is not quorate unless at least 3 Members of that Committee are present for its duration. Increasing the number of Independent Members within the quorum figure will help to promote and ensure probity and propriety in the conduct of the Council's business.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The Council's Standards Committee plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct by Councillors of South Derbyshire District Council and all the Parishes in its area.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 Constitution