
REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	12TH JANUARY 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ANDREA McCASKIE (595831)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee considers the reappointment of those Independent Members detailed in the report in line with recent advice from Standards for England and, if necessary, make an appropriate recommendation to Full Council.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider the reappointment of Independent Members to the Committee.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Members are reminded that the terms of office of the Independent Members of the Committee expire this year on the dates indicated below:-

- 24th May 2011 Mr. R. Pearson and Mr. P. Purnell
- 21st June 2011 Mr. P. Dawn

4.2 Standards for England (SE) has recently issued guidance following a query from an authority on the previous recommendation that Independent Members should serve no more than two terms of four years. Some authorities are concerned that, given the current uncertainty regarding the future of the standards regime, it may be preferable to retain those who have been trained and understand their role rather than to try to recruit and appoint new members. In light of the uncertain future of the standards framework, SE has advised that, as long as the original appointment was carried out in accordance with all the correct legal requirements at the time (e.g. approved by Full Council, after being openly advertised and having assessed the suitability of all the applicants) an authority can extend that term for a further period. This can only be done during the term of office of an existing Independent Member

and by approval from Full Council. Once the Independent Member's term has expired, the full recruitment procedures must be followed again.

- 4.3 In view of this advice, the Committee's views are requested in respect of those Independent Members whose terms of office expire in May and June 2011.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There will be advertising costs associated with any recruitment exercise if the Committee requires this course of action.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 It is a statutory requirement to establish a Standards Committee. Where the Standards Committee has more than three Members, at least 25% must be Independent Members. A meeting of the Standards Committee is not quorate unless at least three Members (including at least two Independent Members) of that Committee are present for its duration.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 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.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None