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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 23</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>HEAD OF LEGAL &amp; DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER</b>	<b>OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>ANDREA McCASKIE (595831)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	

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## **1.0 Reason for Exempt**

1.1 Not applicable.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That the Council considers the reappointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee as detailed in the report in line with recent advice from Standards for England and also considers the vacant position on the Committee.

## **3.0 Purpose of Report**

3.1 To consider the reappointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee, along with a vacant position now created.

## **4.0 Detail**

4.1 The terms of office of Mr. P. Purnell and Mr. P. Dawn, Independent Members of the Standards Committee, will expire this year on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June respectively. They have been Independent Members of the Committee since 2007 and 2001 respectively. In addition, there is also a current vacancy for an Independent Member recently created by the resignation of Mr. R. Pearson, whose term of office would also have expired on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

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 The Standards Committee considered this matter at its last Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011, being mindful that the current standards regime was only likely to continue for a period of approximately one year. Accordingly, it recommended Full Council to extend the terms of office for Mr. P. Dawn and Mr. P.B. Purnell until the end of the current standards regime and to leave vacant the position previously held by Mr. R. Pearson.

4.4 Members are reminded that at the Full Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009, when approval was given to the previous recruitment exercise for Independent Members, it was agreed to accept applications from the existing Independent Members for the vacant terms of office up to four years (2013). Two of these Members had served on the Committee since its establishment in 2001 and were subsequently reappointed for further terms at the Annual Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 There would be advertising costs associated with any recruitment exercise if the Council requires this course of action. However, they could be contained within current budgets.

## **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 12 Jan 2011 Report to Standards Committee