

REPORT TITLE: STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

11 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor Caroline Horrill, Leader

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

The Council is asked to approve an increase to the membership of the Standards Committee. This is necessary to help facilitate the work of the Standards Sub-Committees, whose membership is drawn from the main Committee. Accordingly, It is recommended that the Standards Committee membership is increased for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year from 7 to 11 members. The Committee is appointed in accordance with the rules on proportionality and therefore the increased size in membership will comprise of 6 (Conservative) and 5 (Liberal Democrats) Councillors.

Group Managers have been consulted and nominations have been put forward as set out below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Membership of the Standards Committee be increased to 11 (no deputies) for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year – 6 Conservative and 5 Liberal Democrats.
2. That appointments to the Standards Committee be agreed as follows (new members shown in bold):

Conservative – Councillors Berry, Gemmell, Mather, Tait (Chairman), **Stallard and Huxstep**

Liberal Democrats – Councillors Bell, Izzard, Laming, **Clear and Evans**

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL STRATEGY OUTCOME

- 1.1 The Standards Committee provides an important role in ensuring that the Council's decision-making structures and elected Members contribute to the delivery of each of the outcomes of the Council's Strategy.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 None

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to have in place arrangements to deal with investigations and decisions on allegations relating to failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee and its sub-committees are a key element of these arrangements.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Proposals in the Report have been discussed with Group Leaders and Managers

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 None

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 None

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<i>Property N/A</i>		
<i>Community Support N/A</i>		
<i>Timescales N/A</i>		
<i>Project capacity N/A</i>		
<i>Financial / VfM N/A</i>		
<i>Legal – failure to deal with</i>	Increasing membership	

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
complaints may lead to legal challenge of the Council's decision.	will ensure that the Council can deal in a lawful way with any complaints it receives.	
<i>Innovation N/A</i>		
<i>Reputation</i> – if the Council is unable to deal with complaints, the public may consider that the Council is not properly addressing issues of public concern.	Increasing membership will ensure that complaints are properly dealt with.	

10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 10.1 Complaints regarding Members and the Code of Conduct are dealt with under arrangements made pursuant to the Localism Act 2011. After initial checks by the Monitoring Officer (to ensure that there is sufficient information to allow the complaint to be considered, that it is within the remit of the complaints system, and that it is sufficiently serious to be formally considered), a complaint is first considered by the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee. The complainant can ask for a review of a decision of the Assessment Sub-Committee not to take any further action, in which case it is then referred to the Standards (Review) Sub-Committee. In either case, if the matter is referred for investigation, a Standards (Determination) Committee will determine the complaint and what action, if any, should be taken
- 10.2 The Standards Assessment, Determination and Review Sub-Committees each have their memberships drawn from the main committee, generally working on a rota basis. Each Sub-Committee is comprised of three Councillors, together with (in the case of complaints involving a parish councillor) a Parish Representative. An independent person is also invited to attend to assist the Sub-Committee.
- 10.3 Whilst appointments are made to Sub-Committees using a rota, they must also have regard to specific matters to be dealt with. For example it would be inappropriate for the same Member to be part of a Review Sub-Committee having previously been involved at the Assessment stage of a specific case. Occasionally, there are also other matters and conflicts of interest that may preclude their taking part.
- 10.4 Under the Constitution, decisions on the making or terminations of appointments to bodies set up by the Council are a matter for full Council.

11 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

11.1 None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

None

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

None