

ST37
FOR DECISION
WARD(S): GENERAL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7 February 2005

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

Contact Officer: Chris Ashcroft Tel No: 01962 848284 cashcroft@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The three Independent Members and two Parish Representatives were appointed for the 2003/04 and 2004/05 Municipal Years. Due to reasons of ill health, Mr Peter Gwynn (a Parish Representative) resigned recently, but a replacement was not sought due to the closeness of this exercise.

The Regulations require a press advertisement to seek candidates for the Independent Member posts. For the Parish Representative positions, the Council has an agreed procedure for consulting parishes and the Winchester Association of Parish Councils. The process will commence shortly.

The appointments must be approved by a majority of full Council. They can be made for a period of more than one year to achieve continuity of experience and the City Council has opted for a two year period. Ideally the appointments should be made at the Annual Council meeting which this year will be held on 18 May.

It would not be appropriate for the Standards Committee to undertake the selection process, as the quorum provisions require Independent and Parish Representatives to be in attendance. However, this Committee can recommend to Council (on 24 February 2005) that a Special Committee be established solely for the purpose of making recommendations to the following Council meeting (on 13 April 2005) regarding these appointments. It is suggested that this approach be agreed and that the Special Committee be established in accordance with the political balance formula, to include some representation from the existing Standards Committee. A membership of 9 (4:3:1:1) is suggested and, if agreed, the names of those Members to be appointed can be provided by the Group Leaders at Council on 24 February 2005.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1. That a Special Committee be established to recommend to Council on 13 April 2005 the appointment of three Independent Members and two Parish Representatives to serve on the Standards Committee for the 2005/06 and 2006/07 Municipal Years.
2. That Mr Peter Gwynn be thanked for his past service on the Committee.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 1.1 To ensure the Council's work practices are consistent with corporate values.

2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 2.1 This work, including the press advertisements for the Independent Members, can be undertaken within existing resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None