

Wiltshire Council

Standards Committee

27 April 2016

Appointment of Co-opted Non-Voting Members of the Standards Committee

Purpose of Report

1. (a) To recommend Council to confirm the appointment of the four current co-opted non-voting members of the Standards Committee at its Annual General Meeting on 10 May 2016 for their remaining term of office until the unitary and parish elections in May 2017;
- (b) To ask the Standards Committee to review the role, number and arrangements for appointment of non-voting co-opted members and make recommendations to the new council at its Annual General Meeting in May 2017.

Background

2. At its meeting on 15 May 2012 the Council agreed to establish a new Standards Committee with terms of reference as set out at Appendix A.
3. In July 2012 the Council delegated responsibility to the Standards Committee to appoint 4 co-opted non-voting members for the period up to the unitary and parish elections in May 2013. On 24 October 2012 the Standards Committee appointed the following:
 - Mr Philip Gill MBE JP
 - Mr Paul Neale
 - Miss Pam Turner
 - Mr John Scragg
4. These members were re-appointed in May 2013 for a four year term of office in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference. Council has confirmed their appointment annually since.

Main Considerations

5. The terms of reference for the Standards Committee provide for a politically balanced committee of 13 elected members and up to 8 non-voting co-opted

members, 50% of whom must be serving parish, town or city councillors who are not councillors or officers of the Council.

6. In July 2012 Council, however, determined that there should be 4 co-opted non-voting members appointed out of the maximum of 8 set in the terms of reference.
7. They also provide that the Hearing, Review and Dispensation Sub-Committees may, in addition to the 3 elected members, include 2 non-voting co-opted members, one of whom should be a parish representative where a complaint involves a parish councillor. Where possible co-opted members have therefore been attending Standards Review Sub-Committees.
8. The current co-opted members have made a valuable contribution to the work of the Standards Committee, including attendance at meetings of the Review Sub-Committee and the Constitution Focus Group.

Environmental and Climate Considerations

9. None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

10. The arrangements are consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Risk Assessment

11. There are no significant risks arising from this report.

Financial Implications

12. In accordance with the adopted recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the annual allowance for a co-opted non-voting member of the Standards Committee is £ 1,120, which is met from within the existing budget.

Legal Implications

13. The issues covered in this report form part of the standards framework, which is established under the Localism Act 2011.

Recommendations:

14. The Standards Committee is, therefore, asked to recommend full Council:

- (1) to confirm the appointment of the four current co-opted non-voting members of the Standards Committee at its Annual General Meeting on 10 May 2016 for their remaining term of office until the unitary and parish elections in May 2017.

- (b) to ask the Standards Committee to review the role, number and arrangements for appointment of non-voting co-opted members to the Committee and make recommendations to the new council in the light of the review at its Annual General Meeting in May 2017.

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Appendix A - Terms of reference of Standards Committee