

Wiltshire Council

Standards Committee

15 June 2021

Appointment of Members to the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee

Purpose of Report

1. This report asks the Standards Committee to appoint the membership of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee for the forthcoming year.

Background

2. Following consideration by the Constitution Focus Group and the Standards Committee, Full Council on 9 July 2019 approved amendments to Protocol 12 (now 11) of the Constitution: Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints.
3. The amendments included establishing a revised procedure for consideration and determination of Code of Conduct complaints, with determination by a standing Standards Assessment Sub-Committee rather than by the Monitoring Officer.
4. The Sub-Committee came into effect on 1 January 2020, following appointment of its membership by the Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2019. It has met on 10 occasions since it was appointed and made determinations for approximately 35 complaints.
5. The terms of reference for the Sub-Committee (**Appendix A**) require that the membership be appointed for each year.

Main Considerations

6. The Sub-Committee is comprised of five Members or Substitute Members of the Standards Committee, with all other Members or Substitute Members acting as substitutes for the Sub-Committee. Once appointed, up to two Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee attend the Sub-Committee on a rotating ad hoc basis.
7. The Sub-Committee is not subject to the requirements of political balance but is subject to a requirement of a maximum of four elected Members from any political group.
8. The Members appointed at the meeting on 14 November 2019, and reconfirmed on 7 July 2020, were as listed below. On each occasion the Committee delegated appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee to the Sub-Committee:

Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Ernie Clark (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Fred Westmoreland
Cllr Stuart Wheeler

9. On 18 May 2021 all Members and Substitute Members of the Standards Committee were emailed requesting expressions of interest to serve as Members of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee.

10. The following Members submitted an expression of interest:

Richard Britton
Ernie Clark
Gordon King
Ruth Hopkinson
Sam Pearce-Kearney

11. Councillors Allison Bucknell and Pip Ridout each also made an expression of interest should members be required.

12. The Committee is asked to consider the expressions of interest and appoint such Members it considers appropriate to the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee. In keeping with its decisions on 14 November 2019 and 7 July 2020, it is recommended the Committee delegate the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the Sub-Committee.

Safeguarding Implications

13. There are no safeguarding issues arising from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

14. There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

15. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

Financial Implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Public Health Impact of the Proposals

17. There are no public health impacts arising from this report.

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

18. There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

Legal Implications

19. The recommendations in this report are consistent with the council's duties under relevant legislation.

Proposal

20. **To appoint five members to the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee for the forthcoming year as follows:**

**Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Ernie Clark
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson
Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney**

21. **To delegate appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee to the Sub-Committee.**

Perry Holmes – Director, Legal and Governance

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Appendices

Appendix A – Terms of Reference of the Assessment Sub-Committee

Background Papers

[Protocol 11 of the Constitution](#)

Appendix A - Standards Assessment Sub-Committee Terms of Reference (Part 3B of the Constitution)

Assessment Sub-Committee

- 2.5.9 As it shall consider multiple complaints this Sub-Committee shall comprise 5 elected Members from among the Standards Committee and its substitutes, in case of conflicts arising. The Standards Committee will appoint the members annually, along with a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee may include up to 2 non-voting co-opted Members of the Standards Committee on an ad-hoc basis. All other members and substitutes of the Standards Committee will serve as substitutes for the Sub-Committee.
- 2.5.10 The above Sub-Committee is not subject to the requirements of political balance but is subject to a requirement of a maximum of 4 elected Members from any political group. The co-opted members serving on the Sub-Committee will be determined by the proper officer, who in this instance would be a Democratic Services Officer on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.5.11 The above Sub-Committee shall meet on a monthly basis and make decisions on all Code of Conduct complaints in accordance with the Council's arrangements under [Protocol 11](#).
- 2.5.12 Members, including co-opted members, may not serve on the Hearing Sub-Committee for a complaint they have previously considered on the Assessment Sub-Committee