

Standards Committee – Independent Members

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider extending the terms of office of the two Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the term of office of each of the Independent Members of the Standards committee be extended for a period of 12 months.

3. Links to Corporate Business Plan

- 3.1 Good governance arrangements underpin delivery of the Council's Corporate Priorities and the promotion and regulation of high standards of ethical conduct are an essential element in working effectively with and on behalf of the community at large.

4. Background

- 4.1 There are presently two Independent Members of the Standards Committee, Mr J Carine and Mr R Philpott. Both have been members of the Standards Committee since its inception in March 2002.

- 4.2 Mr J Carine's term of office expires in May 2007 and Mr Philpott's term of office expires in May 2006.

5. Recent Government Proposals

- 5.1 The Government has recently announced proposals to:-

- a) amend some provisions of the Code of Conduct, and
- b) make local authorities responsible for dealing with all complaints alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct with a power/duty to refer the more serious allegations to the Standards Board for England.

- 5.2 The knowledge and experience gained by the two sitting Independent Members will be invaluable in assisting the Standards Committee in implementing the Governments proposals. It is, therefore, recommended that the term of office of each Independent Member be extended initially for a period of one year.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Community and Environmental Implications

- 7.1 None

8. Human Resource Implications

8.1 None

9. Equal Opportunities Implications

9.1 None

Documents used in preparing this report – None

**THE REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES TO
THE COUNCIL: 25TH APRIL 2006**

Report Author

Mr P Jeremiah
Solicitor
Team Leader Legal Services
Tel. 01249 706600
Fax. 01249 462283
Email pjeremaih@northwiltshire.gov.uk

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