

Title: **Appointment of Town Council Representative on the Standards Committee**

Reporting Officer: **Nicola Mathiason, Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Purpose

To appoint a Town Council representative to the Standards Committee.

Background

The Standards Committee includes one Town councillor (town representative) and one Parish councillor (Parish representative) to help the Committee understand the perspective on conduct issues in town and parish councils. The Town Council representative is appointed for one year so that the five town councils each get a greater opportunity to participate and the Parish representative is appointed for two years.

Last year, Council appointed both the Town and Parish representatives. This year it is necessary to appoint only the Town representative. Mary Stacey of Trowbridge Town Council is the current Town Council representative.

All Town Councils were sent a letter in July asking if they would like to nominate a candidate or to seek nominations from their respective Councillors. A follow up reminder was made in August. Each nominee was asked to explain in 150 words or less why s/he should be chosen.

The Constitution (paragraph 9.02 (d) page 57) requires that the Town Council representative (and Parish Council representative in a year when it is necessary to appoint) shall be appointed by Council at the second ordinary meeting of the Council in each municipal year, on a secret ballot of Councillors.

Accordingly, ballot papers for the position of Town Council representative would have been circulated to all West Wiltshire District Council Members enclosing the candidates' statements. However, only one nomination has been received, from Cllr Peter Leach, Chairman and Mayor of Bradford on Avon Town Council. It was therefore not necessary to ballot Members. Cllr Leach's supporting statement is attached for Members' consideration.

Options

The candidate with the highest number of votes should be appointed.

Background Documents

Correspondence, application pack, candidate's statements

Recommendation

- (a) That Council considers whether it wishes to accept the nomination of Cllr Peter Leach of Bradford on Avon Town Council as the Town Council representative to the Standards Committee.**
- (b) That Cllr Mary Stacey be thanked for all her hard work and contribution to the Standards Committee.**