

Title: Appointment of an additional independent member to the Standards Committee

Portfolio holders: Councillor Graham Payne- Leader

Reporting Officer: Tim Darsley - Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

To recommend to Council the appointment of an additional independent member to the Standards Committee.

2. Background

It was agreed at February Council that the membership of the Standards Committee should be increased in order for it to be able to undertake its new responsibilities under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The revised membership of the Standards Committee will now comprise:-

- Four independent members
- Two Parish Council members
- Two Town Council members
- Four District Councillors, broadly spread across the political groups

One new independent member is required to be appointed in addition to the three existing independent members for the duration of the Council.

3. Appointment Process

External members are appointed by Council on the recommendation of a Panel comprising:

- The Leader - Councillor Graham Payne
- The Chair - Councillor Julie Swabey
- The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Jeff Osborn
- The Chair of the Audit Committee - Councillor Helen Osborn

The Panel is advised by the Monitoring Officer - Tim Darsley.

An invitation to apply for membership of the Committee was placed in the Wiltshire Times on 7 March. Three applications were received on an application form developed specifically for Standards Committee membership.

Two applicants were interviewed by the Panel on 25 March. The third applicant was not able to attend for interview on any of the dates offered.

4. Risk Management Implications

If the proposed changes to the Standards Committee are not implemented by April there is a risk that it will not be able to discharge effectively its new responsibilities.

5. Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications in increasing the size of the Standards Committee as proposed.

6. Legal Implications

The appointment process is in accordance with the requirements of the constitution.

7. Recommendations of the Panel

Both applicants had much to offer the Standards Committee. After careful consideration of their application forms and their responses to the interview questions, the Panel agreed that Jacqueline Smith was the most suitable by virtue of her experience, skills and motivation for the position.

Accordingly the Panel recommends to Council that:

- **Jacqueline Smith be appointed as an external member of the Standards Committee for the duration of this Council.**