

**Title:** Progress on Committee Appointments

**Reporting Officer:** Tim Darsley, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer

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### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress with the appointment of one additional independent member and two additional town and parish representatives.

### 2. Background

In order to prepare for the forthcoming local assessment responsibilities, the Committee previously agreed to increase its membership to 12, made up of;

- four independent members,
- four town and parish representatives, and
- four district councillors.

This requires the appointment of one additional independent member, one additional town council member and one additional parish council member.

### 3. Key Issues

Progress with the appointments is as follows:

#### *(i) Independent member*

An advertisement was placed in The Wiltshire Times on 7 March. An application pack was sent out in response to expressions of interest. This contained background information on the role and an application form.

Three applications were received by the closing date of the 20 March. Appointments of independent Members are made by Council on the recommendations of a panel made up of the Chair of Council, the Leader, and the chairs of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees. The panel met and interviewed two applicants on 25 March. It was not possible to arrange an interview with the third applicant because he was out of the country at the time.

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.

This recommendation will be considered by Council on 9 April.

*(ii). Town and Parish Council Members*

An invitation for nominations and an information pack was sent to all Town and Parish councils in the week commencing 17 March. Nominees were asked to complete an application form and provide a short statement as to why they should be chosen to serve on the Standards Committee.

Forms are to be returned by 18th April. Following this, all district councillors will be provided with the details of the nominations and asked to vote for one parish council member and one town council member. The candidates with the highest number of votes will be recommended for appointment at the Council meeting of 14 May.

#### **4. Risk Management Implications**

With the delay of the introduction of the new local assessment regime, the risk of not having arrangements in place in time is now minimal.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

There are no significant financial implications to the expansion of the Standards Committee.

#### **6. Legal and Human Rights Implications**

The new size and composition of the Standards Committee is designed to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Council has agreed to amend the constitution to incorporate the revised size and composition of the Standards Committee.

#### **7. The Next Steps**

After the Council meeting on 14 May, the Standards Committee will be able to select its sub-committees and the sub-committees will be able to appoint their chairs. At this point the Committee will be well placed to deal with the local assessment of complaints.

Training on local assessment will need to be arranged for all Standards Committee members before local assessment commences.

#### **8. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the progress report is noted.