

Report of	Meeting	Date
Monitoring Officer	Council	14 July 2009

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To appoint two additional Independent members of the Standards Committee and to confirm the terms of office for the Committee as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That Gwynne Furlong and Hugh Evans be appointed as Independent members of the Standards Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The new Regulations and local assessment of complaints against Councillors requires three sub-committees for each stage of the process. Each sub-committee will need to consist of no less than three members of the standards committee, including an Independent member and a parish council representative if the matter under consideration relates to parish issues.
- At the Annual Meeting in 2008 the membership of the Standards Committee was increased to take account of this to ensure that there is an independent member and parish council representative available without a conflict of interest for both the assessment and review sub-committees.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	y
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

- In order to recruit an additional Independent Member a job description and person specification were drawn up. Following an unsuccessful recruitment process the Local Strategic Partnership were contacted to canvass interest and applicants were requested to apply by letter.

7. In June three candidates attended for interview with the interviews being conducted by Mr Ellwood, as the Independent Chair of the Committee and Councillor Stella Walsh, as a Member of the Committee. Andrew Docherty, as the Council's Monitoring Officer was also present.
8. The Standards Committee considered information about each candidate at their meeting on 18 June 2009 and would like to recommend Gwynne Furlong and Hugh Evans be appointed.
9. Gwynne Furlong has lived in Chorley for many years and is the Honorary President of the Chorley Chamber of Trade and Commerce. He has experience of codes of conduct, working within legal guidelines and chairing meetings.
10. Hugh Evans is the Deputy Chief Executive of the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce. He has experience of reviewing evidence, making unbiased decisions and working within legal guidelines.
11. Appointments to the Standards Committee require approval by Council.

TERMS OF OFFICE

12. Borough Councillors are appointed to the Committee on an annual basis, but it the Committee have agreed that Independent and Parish members should serve a term of office. Members will be eligible to be reappointed at the end of their original term.
13. For Independent members a four year staggered term of office is proposed:

Tony Ellwood	2011
Gwynne Furlong	2012
Hugh Evans	2013
14. For Parish Council representatives it is proposed they serve the same term of office on the Standards Committee as their term of office on the Parish Council.

Joan Geddes	2010
Bill Mason	2011
Alan Platt	2010

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

15. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	y	No significant implications in this area	

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Ruth Rimmington	5118	24 June 2009	StandardsIndependentMember