

Report of	Meeting	Date
Monitoring Officer	Standards Committee	16 September 2010

CHANGE IN APPOINTMENT CRITERIA – PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek a change in the appointment criteria for Parish Councillor Representatives.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the appointment criteria for Parish Council Representatives be amended to exclude from consideration any parish councillor who also sits as a District, Borough or County Councillor.

BACKGROUND

1. On 11 August last interviews were conducted concerning the appointment of a new Parish Council Representative.
2. One of the prospective candidates was a District Councillor for a neighbouring authority and also held a seat as a County Councillor.
3. Whilst there is a specific prohibition on the appointment of a Chorley Borough Council member to the position of Parish Council Representative this does not extend to other Councils. However, it should be noted that one of the drivers for this exclusion is to maintain political balance on the Standards Committee.

REASONS

4. The composition of the membership of the Standards Committee is set to ensure that there is a comprehensive mix of experience and views when considering Committee business. There is a concern that by appointing as Parish Council Representative a member who is also a District, Borough or County Councillor their views will be prejudiced by their other position.
5. The proposed alteration to the criteria will bring them in line with the existing exclusion for Chorley BC members. In addition to providing the mix of experience it will also seek to ensure that there can be no allegations of skewing the political balance by the appointment of a Parish Council Representative who represents a political party at a different authority.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

4. 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		No significant implications in this area	x

Background Papers

None

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
CHRIS MOISTER	5160	28/08/09	