

Report of	Meeting	Date
Monitoring Officer	Council	23 September 2008

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To appoint two Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To recommend that
 - a. The number of Parish Councillors on the Standards Committee be increased from two to three.
 - b. Parish Councillors William Mason and Alan Platt be appointed as Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee.
 - c. Parish Council representatives to serve the same term of office on the Standards Committee as their term of office on the Parish Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. 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.
4. At the Annual Meeting 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. Council agreed that there should be two Parish Councillors on the Standards Committee, however, since that time guidance has emerged from the Standards Board recommending that a Committee should have three Parish Council representatives in order to ensure that sufficient Members are available to deal with local filtering decisions and reviews against those decisions and to provide some capacity in the event of Members being unavailable.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. 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	√
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTIVES

6. The appointment of Parish Members to the Standards Committee has to be made in consultation with the Parishes. Accordingly, the Parish Councils were invited to submit nominations. The nominated Parish Councillors were invited to submit a written application setting out how they consider they meet the criteria.
7. An appointment panel was established from within the membership of the Committee to interview the three candidates with and agreed criteria upon which to base the appointment recommendation. The third candidate withdrew his application following the interview.
8. Appointments to the Standards Committee require approval by Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

9. 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	

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

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