



STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
19 December 2007

**Appointment of Independent Members**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To Note

**SUMMARY:**

This report informs the Committee of the steps that need to be taken with regard to the appointment of the Independent Members of the Committee

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

1. The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 requires that where its Standards Committee has more than three Members at least 25% are independent members (that is appointed rather than elected members)
2. Independent Members must be selected from applicants who respond to a public advertisement placed in one or more newspapers circulating in the Council's area and must be approved by the majority of Members of the County Council
3. In May 2005 the Council agreed (1) to increase the number of Independent Members of the Standards Committee from two to three (2) to appoint Mr F.N.J. Davies and Mr S.F.I Rutter as Independent Members for a 4 year term expiring on the date of the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2009 and (3) to the appointment of Miss Karen Heenan as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee with effect from 5 May 2005 for a 3 year term expiring on the date of the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2008. By staggering the terms of office in this way the Council is able to review the composition of the Standards Committee in 2008 and to follow the good practice of ensuring that it has Independent Members of varying experience at any one time.

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4. It is anticipated that, with the likely increase in Standards Committee work once the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act come into force, the Council will wish to maintain a Standards Committee which includes as least three Independent Members. In view of the expiration of Miss Heenan's current term of office next May the Monitoring Officer intends to place the appropriate advertisement seeking applicants for the role of Independent Member early in the New Year.
5. The selection of Independent Members of the Standards Committee has not been delegated to any Committee of the Council and the Monitoring Officer therefore intends to take a report to the Full Council Meeting in January 2008 to seek agreement to the appointment of a selection panel to short list and interview applicants with a view to that panel making a recommendation of appointment to Full Council at or before the next Annual Meeting
6. The Monitoring Officer will carry out an Equalities Impact Assessment of the recruitment process and ensure that the appropriate actions are implemented to ensure that the recruitment process addresses any issues identified.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
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That the Committee notes the report.

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**Sources/background papers:**

The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001