

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: 11TH JANUARY 2018

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Cabinet Member: Councillor Nick Oliver - Corporate Services & Cabinet Secretary

Purpose of report

To appraise members of the progress made with the appointment of the three Parish Council representatives to the Standards Committee

Recommendations

To note the report which will be updated verbally by the Monitoring following the meeting of full Council on the 3rd January 2017

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone” or “How” priority included in the draft NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2021

Key issues

Further to the setting up of an interview panel at the last meeting of this Committee the recommendation from that panel due to be considered at a meeting of full Council on the 3rd January 2018

Background

1. The current composition of the Council’s Standards Committee provides for three parish council representatives to be appointed to the Committee in addition to eight county councillors and one independent member. Following the resignation of the previous parish council representatives towards the end of the term of the last Council, expressions of interests from serving parish councillors to join the Committee were invited on two occasions through the offices of the Northumberland Association of Local Councils and otherwise directly to the Council.

2. As a result a total of four applications for appointment were received and an interview panel was set up by this Committee, comprising the Council's independent person, and Councillors Susan Dungworth and Cath Homer, to identify the preferred candidates from the applications received and, as a consequence, make an appropriate recommendation to Council as to whom should be appointed to the vacant positions.
3. Ultimately only three candidates were interviewed by the Panel as one of the four applicants withdrew their application shortly before interview. The Panel's recommendation as to appointment was as follows and was due to be reported to a meeting of full Council on the 3rd January 2018:-

“to agree to appoint the following parish councillors to the three vacancies on the Council's Standards Committee:-

- (a) Councillor Bryn Owen of Craster Parish Council;*
- (b) Councillor Andrew Tebbutt of Morpeth Town Council and*
- (c) Councillor Alex Wallace of East Bedlington Parish Council”*

4. The Council's Constitution at Article 9 currently provides for an area based approach to be taken to the appointment of these positions. In light of the relative difficulty in attracting applications in respect of this current round of appointments as well as the expansion of the number of areas within the county from when the original area based approach was devised it was additionally recommended to Council that this approach no longer be pursued.
5. The Monitoring Officer will update the report verbally following the meeting of full Council on the 3rd January 2018 at which the recommendation from the interview panel will be considered.

Implications

Policy	N/A
Finance and value for money	None significant
Legal	These are set out in the body of the report
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	The appointment of Parish Council representatives will give customers, and in particular, members of local councils, an assurance in relation to the operation of the ethical standards regime
Carbon reduction	N/A
Wards	All divisions

Background papers:

Council constitution

Report sign off.

	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	LH
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Executive Director	AE
Portfolio Holder(s)	NO

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