



Northumberland

County Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th JULY 2022

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT PERSONS - NOTE OF CHANGE IN INTERVIEW PANEL

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Purpose of report

To ask Members to ratify the appointment of Cllr Dunn to the interview panel with regard to the appointment of the three Parish Council representatives to the Standards Committee and the appointment of additional Independent Persons.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members;

- (1) Ratify the appointment of Cllr Dunn to the interview panel with regard to the appointment of the three Parish Council representatives to the Standards Committee.
- (2) Ratify the appointment of Cllr Dunn to the interview panel with regard to the appointment of the additional Independent Persons

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the 'How' Priority – namely 'We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone'

Key issues

1. There is a need to appoint Parish Council representatives to the Standards Committee following vacancies arising after the last election.
2. Members previously resolved that an interview panel be set up with delegated authority to make recommendations to Council regarding the appointment of such

representatives. It was agreed Mr. J. Jackson, Councillors B. Flux and A. Wallace would form the interview panel.

3. On 10th February 2022, members resolved to approve the interview pack for the recruitment of additional Independent Persons and agreed the interview panel as the Chair of Standards and Cllrs Flux and Wallace.
4. Since this date, owing to changes in political proportionality, Cllr Wallace is no longer a member of Standards Committee. In consultation with the chair, Mr Joe Jackson, it was proposed to members of Standards Committee that Cllr Dunn replaces Cllr Wallace and this has been agreed via email by Members and Members are asked to formally ratify that appointment today in relation to both interview panels.

Background

1. The current composition of this Committee provides for three Parish Council representatives to be appointed. Following the resignation of the previous Parish Council representatives towards the end of the term of the last Council, expressions of interest were invited from serving Parish and Town Councillors to join the Committee through the offices of Northumberland Association of Local Councils.
2. At the meeting of Standards Committee on the 14th October 2021 members resolved to form an interview panel consisting of the Chair of the Committee, Mr. J Jackson, and Councillors Flux and Wallace.
3. Three applications have been received and interviews are arranged for 14th September 2022.
4. At the meeting of Full Council on the 5th January 2022 it was resolved that the Council should seek to appoint two additional Independent Persons and that their appointment be delegated to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee on the 10th February 2022 then resolved to agree an interview pack and form an interview panel with the same composition as that of the interview panel for Parish Council representatives.
5. Owing to changes in political proportionality on this Committee, Cllr Wallace who was part of the interview panel is no longer a member of Standards Committee. In consultation with the Chair, Mr. Jackson, it was proposed that Cllr Dunn replace Cllr Wallace on the interview panel. This has been agreed by Members via email and Standards Committee is asked to ratify the appointment of Cllr Dunn.

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 to Standards Committee of 10th February 2022

Report sign off.

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

Suki Binjal - [Monitoring Officer & Interim Director of Governance](#)

Telephone - 01670 623324

Email: suki.binjal@northumberland.gov.uk