



# Northumberland

## County Council

### REPORT FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

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### RECRUITMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

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#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to update members on the recruitment process for three Parish Council representatives to the Standards Committee. The Interview Panel should have interviewed all three Parish Councillors who expressed an interest by the date of the Standards Committee and will report their decision on the final candidate to the Committee.

#### **Recommendations**

- a) To note the appointments to two of the vacant Parish Council positions on the committee
- b) To note the position with regard to the third vacancy

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the “How” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan.

#### **Key issues**

The Standards Committee comprises County Councillors but also three Parish Councillors, as confirmed within the Constitution. The three Parish Council members who were in place prior to the last Parish and County Council elections in May 2021 are no longer in place and a process has taken place in order to appoint to the three vacant Parish Council places.

#### **Background**

1. The Council’s Constitution provides at Article 9, page 26 that the Council will establish a Standards Committee which will be composed of county councillors and three parish council representatives, (who should preferably be geographically representative of the

County as a whole), and one independent co-optee as its Chair. The parish council members and any co-optees are not entitled to vote at meetings.

2. Since May 2021 there have been no Parish Council representatives, one former Parish Council representative having been elected as a County Councillor and the two other representatives no longer being Parish Councillors.
3. On the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 an update was provided to members of the standards committee as to the process for advertising for replacement appointees and members were requested to agree an interview panel.
4. The composition of the interview panel was then changed to replace Councillor Wallace with Councillor Dunn at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 so that the interview panel comprised Councillor Flux, Councillor Dunn and Joe Jackson.
5. After extensive advertising only three expressions of interest were received and two interviews took place on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The interviewees were successful and Joe Jackson has now formally written to the appointees confirming their appointment until the next Parish Council elections.
6. The term of appointment is from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 when they were informed by the Chair of their successful appointments until the date of the next Parish and Town Council elections.
7. The two Parish Council members appointed are Councillor Alan Varley of Ponteland Town Council and Councillor David Bewley of Amble Town Council.
8. A final interview of the third Parish Councillor who expressed an interest is to take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and an update will be provided to the Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	N/A
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	N/A
<b>Legal</b>	These are as set out in the report
<b>Procurement</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources</b>	The Council's recruitment and selection good practice standards was and will be adhered during the selection process
<b>Property</b>	N/A

<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No x N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	The recruitment process was open to all sections of the community who are serving Parish/Town Councillors
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	N/A
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	N/A
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	N/A
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	N/A
<b>Wards</b>	All

**Background papers:**

N/A

**Linked Relevant Reports**

1. Standards Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
and  
2. 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Report sign off.**

	Full name of officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Service Director Finance & Interim S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	N/A
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	N/A

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