

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Standards Committee Appointment Urgent Business Decision

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To formally appoint the nomination from the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils as the Parish member to serve on the Council's Standards Committee.

This report is public

1. RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That Parish Councillor Margaret Davy be appointed to serve as the independent Parish representative member on the Council's Standards Committee with immediate effect.**

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Standards Committee is required to include a parish member, and Council has previously agreed that such member should be nominated by the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils.
- 2.2 The independent parish representative member of the Standards Committee up to the May 2007 elections indicated that she did not wish to continue in this role and the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils was therefore asked to nominate a new representative immediately after the parish elections.
- 2.3 Unfortunately at the LAPTC's first meeting of the year, no nominations were received and it was not possible to resolve the situation in time for the meeting of full Council on 18th July.
- 2.4 Since the next meeting of full Council is not until after the next meeting of Standards Committee, Council agreed to delegate the appointment of the LAPTC's nomination to the Council Business Committee.
- 2.5 In order that this appointment can be formalised prior to the next meeting of Standards Committee and as quickly as possible to enable the appointed person to undergo some initial training in time for their first meeting, Members of the Business Committee have indicated that they would be happy for this to be undertaken through the urgent business procedure and advised electronically rather than call a special meeting for that purpose.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 At their last meeting on 23rd July 2007, the LAPTC approved the nomination of Margaret Davy, a Parish Councillor from Yealand Redmayne Parish Council and Council is therefore requested to formally appoint this parish nomination to the Standards Committee.

4. Options

- 4.1 Option 1 - To approve the nomination submitted by the LAPTC for an independent parish member of the Council's Standards Committee.
- 4.2 Option 2 – Not to approve the nomination submitted by the LAPTC for an independent parish member of the Council's Standards Committee

5. Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 Officers' preferred option is Option 1 above in line with the decision of Council to request a nomination from the LAPTC for this position. If this nomination is not accepted Members will need to consider another suitable method of recruitment which will require a change to the Constitution. In the meantime the Standards Committee would not be properly constituted.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Council has delegated to the Council Business Committee the formal appointment of the LAPTC nomination to the Standards Committee.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There would be no costs in accepting this nomination to replace the former parish representative. If any other method of recruitment were to be utilised there may be some costs incurred in the recruitment process which would need to be met from the corporate advertising budget.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local Government Act 2000 requires that there be a parish member on the Council's Standards Committee. This requirement is reflected in the Councils' Constitution, and Council has previously resolved that this Parish member be nominated by the LAPTC.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact Officer: Gillian Noall
Telephone: 01524 582060
E-mail: gnoall@lancaster.gov.uk
Ref. GMN