

REPORT TO: SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS PANEL

DATE: 18TH JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE ADVISORY PANEL

REPORT BY: COUNTY CLERK

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To appoint a 5 member advisory panel to consider applications received in relation to the vacancies for independent members on the Council's Standards Committee

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Members will recall that under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 which established Standards Committees, the National Assembly made the Standards Committee (Wales) regulations 2001 which set out a detailed procedure for the establishment of Standards Committees.

Council resolved to establish a Standards Committee comprising 5 members, namely 3 independent members, 1 county Councillor and 1 Town/Community Councillor.

In accordance with the regulations a detailed advertisement was published inviting applications for the 3 independent member seats. The regulations require that these applications be considered by an advisory panel and council resolved that this panel should comprise three County Councillors, one town/community Councillor and one lay member, to be appointed by the special appointments panel. The advisory panel will consider all applications received, apply the criteria for appointment established by the council, and then make recommendations back to your committee which in turn will make the final appointments.

In appointing the advisory panel members need to consider that the appointees to the panel will not themselves be able to sit on the Standards Committee. The independent member of the panel known as a 'lay panel member' must not be and must not have been a member, co-opted member or officer or be the spouse of a member or an officer of either Denbighshire County Council or the Town/Community Councils within the area of the county.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Travel expenses will be incurred by the advisory panel members

4. FINANCIAL CONTROL STATEMENT

Expenses are anticipated to be quite small and will fall to be funded from the members' budget.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Standards Committees are part of the Government's modernisation legislation which has been the subject of extensive consultation and local government has been represented on the assembly modernisation working groups in particular the working group on ethics. Town and community Councils have been consulted and the Denbighshire Association of Local Councils invite the council to appoint their chairman Mr E Emrys Williams as the town/community council representative on the advisory panel.

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The establishment of a standards committee is a statutory requirement.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members appoint an advisory panel comprising three county councillors, one town/community councillor and one lay member.