

Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 12 May 2015

Lead Officer: Gary Williams, Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Lisa Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer

Title: Appointment of Lay Members to the Standards Committee

1. What is the report about?

To appoint two independent lay members to the Standards Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The governing regulations regarding the composition of the Council's Standards Committee requires a committee of between five and nine members comprising persons who are independent of the Council, County Councillors and Town and Community Council Councillors. Due to the retirement of two independent members it is now necessary to replace these members.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The recommendation of the Special Appointments Panel regarding the two individuals they consider most appropriate to sit as Lay Members on the Standards Committee are: -

- 1) Anne Mellor
- 2) Julia Hughes

4. Report details

Full Council will recall delegating the selection process to a Special Appointments Panel at it's meeting on 11 September 2012, this panel consists of three county councillors, one community council member and one lay member, which has interviewed candidates and now makes a formal recommendation to the Full Council.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

A fully functioning and representative Standards Committee which upholds the high standards expected of members helps underpin the Council's exercise of its democratic functions.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The Independent Remuneration Panel sets the daily rate for independent members. It is a legal requirement that this rate is offered to independent members.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

It is a requirement that any vacancy for an independent member is advertised in at least two newspapers circulating in the area.

As regards the community member sitting on the Special Appointments Panel all town and community councils were consulted in order to consider putting forward a community panel member.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no additional costs directly associated with the appointments.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no identified risks in proceeding with the appointments.

10. Power to make the Decision

The Local Government Act 2000 requires all local authorities to have in place a Standards Committee.