

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Recruitment of co-opted Parish Representative

Date: 22 June 2023

Author: Monitoring Officer

Purpose

To seek approval to commence recruitment to fill the vacant post of co-opted parish representative.

Recommendation

That Members:

- 1) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to commence the recruitment process for a co-opted parish council representative to join the Standards Committee
- 2) Establish an interview panel of 3 members drawn from the membership of the Standards Committee; and
- 3) Agree that the panel shall bring a recommendation as to appointment to the next meeting of this Committee

1 Background

- 1.1 In July 2012, Council agreed that the Standards Committee should not be politically balanced and should comprise 2 co-opted parish representatives and 1 co-opted independent member in addition to elected members. The number of co-opted parish representatives subsequently reduced to one and former parish Councillor, Martyn Thorpe was co-opted onto the Standards Committee in 2021 as the parish representative. Mr Thorpe is no longer a parish councillor and has therefore resigned from his position as co-opted parish representative on this Committee. The Monitoring Officer has thanked him for his service.
- 1.2 An application pack is being prepared and subject to approvals received today, it is proposed to send the pack to all parish clerks in the borough with a request that they bring the vacancy to the attention of their parish Councillors. Following receipt of applications, the Monitoring Officer, in

consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee will consider suitability of the applicants for interview.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Standards Committee agrees to the commencement of recruitment, and establishes an interview panel of 3 members to interview applicants for the vacant co-opted position, following shortlisting of candidates by the Monitoring officer in consultation with the Chair of Committee. The interview panel will then bring their recommended appointment to the next meeting of this Committee. It should be noted that Council will ultimately have to formally agree to co-opt.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The Committee could determine not to recruit to the vacant co-opted parish representative position, and the vacancy would remain. Recruitment could also be undertaken in a different way, however as this is a parish role, the co-opted member must be a parish Councillor, so engaging with the parish clerks seems the most sensible way to proceed.

- 3.2 The Committee could agree to a larger interview panel, however, a panel of 3 has historically been established to interview vacant positions relating to standards and this is considered to be an appropriate number.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 On appointment, the co-opted member will be entitled to receive the co-opted members' allowance agreed as part of the Members' Allowances Scheme. This will be met from existing budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Standards Committee have authority to deal with the recruitment of co-opted members and to make recommendations to Council on appointment.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 None

9 Background papers

9.1 None identified.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by the Chief Financial Officer

Date:

Drafted by the Monitoring Officer