

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Report of the Monitoring Officer to Full Council – 11 December 2012

Changes to the Standards Committee and appointment of the Independent Co-optees.

(This is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council)

At the meeting of Full Council in July 2012, Members agreed a series of recommendations relating to the introduction of a new Standards Regime for Taunton Deane in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

One of those recommendations was to create the Standards Committee and decide its composition. Full Council agreed that there should be a Committee of nine made up of five elected Members, politically balanced, two parish representatives and two co-opted members.

On the 7 November 2012, three of the ex-independent members of the Standards Committee were interviewed as they had all said that they would like to be considered for the independent co-optee positions on the new Standards Committee.

The three candidates were interviewed by a panel comprising of Councillors Gaines, A Govier and A Wedderkopp and the Monitoring Officer, Tonya Meers

Following those interviews Members found it extremely difficult to choose two out of the three members as they thought that all were extremely knowledgeable and would bring a great deal of experience to the Committee. Therefore a request was made of the Monitoring Officer as to whether it would be possible to extend the number of independent co-optees on the Committee to three in order to be able to appoint all three.

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that this is acceptable if Full Council are agreeable. Therefore it is recommended that the number of co-opted members able to sit on the Standards Committee should be increased to three.

If Full Council agree to recommendation (1) below then it needs to formally appoint those co-optees. The names of the applicants were Anne Elder, Terry Bowditch and Adrian Cox.

It is therefore **recommended** that:-

- (1) the number of Independent co-optees able to sit on the Standards Committee should be increased to three; and
- (2) Anne Elder, Terry Bowditch and Adrian Cox be appointed to those roles.

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