

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

25 JUNE, 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's approval to the appointment of two new Independent Members to the Council's Standards Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council is recommended to appoint Geoffrey Sindrey and Julie Chapman as Independent Members of the Council's Standards Committee for a term of five years.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council is obliged by law to appoint a Standards Committee which is constituent of 25% Independent Members. This report seeks to fulfil that obligation by replacing one existing post and the appointment of a certified Independent Member to a total of 5 for the Committee.

REPORT INDEX

Background	Section 1
Details of Matters to be Considered	Section 2
Contribution to CHASE	Section 3
Section 17 Implications	Section 4
Human Rights Act Implications	Section 5
Data Protection Act Implications	Section 6
Risk Management Implications	Section 7
Legal Implications	Section 8
Financial Implications	Section 9
Human Resource Implications	Section 10
Conclusions	Section 11
Background Papers	
Annexes	

Section 1

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has previously agreed to increase the Membership of the Standards Committee to 20 persons to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The 2007 Act requires that the Standards Committee is constituted of a quarter of Independent Members. This has necessitated recruiting one additional Member to the Council's existing four members who are Independent. In addition, Mr. Beeso resigned earlier in the year as an Independent Member and the opportunity was taken whilst recruiting the additional Independent Member to seek a replacement for Mr. Beeso.

Section 2

2. Details of Matters to be Considered

- 2.1 Following a recruitment exercise and an Interview Selection Panel which consisted of three Members of the Standards Committee, two candidates are recommended to Council to be appointed as the Independent Members of the Standards Committee. Both Mr. Sindrey and Mrs. Chapman have expressed an interest in the District and a passion in maintaining high standards of public life.
- 2.2 The appointment of these two Members would ensure that the Council complies with the legislative requirements of having a quarter of the Membership of the Standards Committee appointed as Independent.

Section 3

3. Contributions to CHASE

- 3.1 The appointment of a properly constituted Membership to the Standards Committee should ensure that public confidence in the Standards of Public Life for all the CHASE objectives are maintained.

Section 4

4. Section 17 Implications

- 4.1 There are no Section 17 implications directly arising from the report.

Section 5

5. Human Rights Act Implications

- 5.1 There are no Human Rights Act implications directly arising from the report.

Section 6

6. Data Protection Act Implications

- 6.1 There are no data protection issues directly arising from the report.

Section 7

7. Risk Management Implications

7.1 There are no risk management implications directly arising from the report

Section 8

8. Legal Implications

8.1 Any appointment of an independent Member to the Council's Standards Committee is governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, in pursuance of which the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 ("the Regulations") came into force on 8 May, 2008. Regulation 4 of the Regulations requires Standards Committees to consist of at least 25% independent members.

8.2 Regulation 5 requires that a person appointed as an independent member of a Standards Committee must have their appointment:

- Approved by a majority of Members of the Authority; and
- Advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the relevant geographical area and such other publications or websites as the Authority considers appropriate

And that the appointee must have:

- Submitted an application to the Authority;
- Must not within the preceding 5 years have been a Member or Officer of the Authority, although, subject to this, may be an Independent Member of another Authority; and
- Must not be a person who is a relative or close friend of a Member or Officer of the Authority, although, subject to this, may be an Independent Member of another Authority.

8.3 The Council has complied with all requisite statutory obligations required in seeking to appoint the two named independent members to the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

Section 9

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The increase in the Independent Membership for the Committee from four to five will result in an additional Independent Member Allowance being paid, which can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Section 10

10. Human Resource Implications

10.1 There are no human resource implications directly arising from this report.

Section 11

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 Council is recommended to confirm the appointment of the two individuals as Independent Members.