

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

13 DECEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE
PARISH COUNCILS' STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report to Members the outcome of the recruitment process in respect of Independent Members on the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee.
- 1.2 To confirm the appointment of Independent Members to the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the outcome of the advertisement and recruitment process for Independent Members be noted.
- 2.2 That the recommendations of the Members of the Standards Committee be noted.
- 2.3 That the appointment of Mr. R. Betteridge as an Independent Member of the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee be confirmed.

3. Summary

- 3.1 Following the resignation of the Chairman of both the Standards Committee and Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee, advertisements to recruit Independent Members were placed in the Chase Post in accordance with the Statutory Regulations
- 3.2 Council at its meeting on 27 September 2006 approved the appointment of an additional Independent Member on the Parish Councils Standards Sub-Committee. There is therefore a vacancy for two Independent Members on the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee.
- 3.3 In addition, there is one vacancy on the Standards Committee which needs to be filled by appointment from those Members of the Sub-Committee not already on the Standards Committee.
- 3.4 Although there were a number of initial responses to the advertisement, only two valid applications were received and both applicants were interviewed by Members of the Standards Committee on 4 December 2006.

4. Legislative Framework

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 2000 provides that a Standards Committee of a District Council must include at least one person who is not a Member or Officer of its own or another relevant Authority (an Independent Member).
- 4.2 The Local Authorities' (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 further provide that where a Standards Committee has more than three Members, at least 25% of the Committee must be Independent Members.
- 4.3 The requirement in 4.2 applies equally to the Parish Councils' Standards Sub Committee.
- 4.4 The Local Authorities' (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 state that Independent Persons cannot be appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee or any Sub-Committee, unless the appointment is *inter alia* approved by a majority of the Members of the Authority and therefore a Council resolution is required.

5. Recommendations from Members of the Standards Committee

- 5.1 On Monday, 4 December 2006, Members of the Standards Committee interviewed the applicants and make the following recommendation to Council :
- that Mr. R. Betteridge be appointed as an Independent Member of the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee.
- 5.2 Members of the Standards Committee also determined that the existing Independent Members on the Parish Councils' Standards Committee should be interviewed before a recommendation is made in respect of the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

6. Human Rights Act Implications

- 6.1 There are no identified Human Rights Act Implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 The legal implications are set out throughout this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The annual allowance for the Independent Members will be met from existing Members Allowances revenue budgets.