
Standards Committee

Report of the meeting held on 8th March 2007

Matter for Decision

14. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Article 9 of the Council's Constitution requires Independent Members to be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee for a term of four years from the date of their appointment. As the term of office of the current Independent Members on the Committee is coming to a close, the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer has been authorised to commence the process for the appointment of independent persons to serve on the Standards Committee for a new four year term. A copy of the report by the Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer is appended hereto.

In the light of the qualifying criteria and mindful of the short period during which candidates would have to be shortlisted, interviewed and appointed, the Committee

RECOMMEND

that a Members' Panel comprising Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, T D Sanderson and G S E Thorpe and Mr G Watkins, Parish Council representative (or their representatives) be appointed to shortlist, interview and recommend candidates for appointment as Independent Members of the Committee for the Municipal Year commencing 16th May 2007.

15. CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Having been invited to submit their views on a proposed new Model Code of Conduct for Members, the Committee has responded to the consultation paper "Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members" and requested the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer to convey, on behalf of the District Council, their views to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

A copy of the consultation paper is available on request from Democratic Services, together with the Committee's response.

16. CODE OF CONDUCT – STANDARDS BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Standards Board for England, the Committee have been informed that the Board has decided not to take any further action in relation to allegations made against Councillors serving on Huntingdon Town and Houghton and Wyton Parish Councils.

17. CASE ALERT NOS. 2 AND 3

In Item No. 4 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 27th September 2006, the Committee welcomed the introduction of the "Case Alert" published by the Standards Board for England. The case alert provides an in-depth analysis of significant cases and best practice guidance drawn from decisions by Standards Committees, the Adjudication Panel for England and the High Court.

The Committee now has noted the content of case alert nos. 2 and 3 and in particular the judgement made in no. 3 which suggests that a more restricted view is to be taken of that part of the Code of Conduct relating to the actions of a Member in his/her private life. The outcome of this case is to be reflected in the proposed new Model Code of Conduct which it is anticipated will be published in May.

D H Bristow
Chairman