

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS
(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 determine the minimum size and the composition of Standards Committees. These Regulations state that when a Standards Committee has more than three Members, at least 25% of the total membership must be Independent Members.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 14th May 2003, the Council re-appointed Mr D Pattison as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee and invited Mr D H Bristow and Mr D L Hall to serve as Independent Members.
- 1.3 Article 9 of the District Council's Constitution states that Independent Members shall be appointed to serve on the (Standards) Committee for a term of four years from the date of their appointment.
- 1.4 In July 2006, Mr D Pattison, former Chief Executive of Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare Trust tendered his resignation as an Independent Member.
- 1.5 Given the term of office of the remaining two Independent Members is coming to a close and the requirement to fill the outstanding vacancy, it is necessary to consider arrangements for commencing the process for the appointment of three Independent Members to the Committee to take effect from May 2007.

2. APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- 2.1 Members are reminded that under the Regulations, a person may serve as an independent representative only if –
- ◆ he or she has not been a Member or employee of the Council within the five years before the date of appointment;
 - ◆ he or she is not a relative or close friend of the Member or employee of the council;
 - ◆ he or she has filled in an application for the position;
 - ◆ he or she has been approved by the majority of Members; and
 - ◆ the position has been advertised in at least one local newspaper.
- 2.2 For the purposes of the selection process, Members may wish to consider whether they consider it appropriate to recommend to full Council the establishment of a Panel, perhaps comprising three Members of the Committee, to short-list, interview and then recommend to Council candidates for appointment as Independent Members.


3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Given the nature of the process required to be undertaken to appoint Independent Members and the time needed to advertise and seek the submission of formal applications, the Committee is recommended to –

- (a) authorise the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer to commence the process for the appointment of independent persons to serve on the Standards Committee with effect from commencement of the Municipal Year 2007/08; and
- (b) request full Council to appoint a Members' Panel to short-list, interview and recommend candidates for appointment as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year commencing 16th May 2007.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001.

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