

**INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATOR:  
NEW ROLE FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEES  
(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members may recall that at their last meeting (Minute No. 36 refers) mention was made in the Committee's response to the consultation paper "Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England" to a proposal involving the transfer to Standards Committees of responsibility for the granting and supervision of exemptions of certain local authority posts from political restrictions.
- 1.2 Restrictions on political activity by certain local government staff were introduced under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which provided for the appointment of an Independent Adjudicator to grant dispensations for staff to engage in certain political activities.
- 1.3 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the role of Independent Adjudicator is to be abolished and the duties transferred to local authority Standards Committees.
- 1.4 Currently this function is delegated to the Chief Executive by the District Council's Cabinet.

**2. DETAIL OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 Whilst it is anticipated that the Department for Communities and Local Government will issue guidance on this matter in due course, it is envisaged by the Standards Board that the duties to be undertaken by Standards Committees will involve –
- ◆ the consideration of applications from local authority employees for exemptions from political restriction in respect of their post;
  - ◆ where appropriate, the issue of directions requiring a local authority to include a post in the list of political restrictive posts that it maintains; and
  - ◆ giving general advice, following consultation with appropriate parties, on the application of criteria for designation of a politically restricted post.
- 2.2 The timing of this transfer of functions from the Independent Adjudicator is a Government matter, but the Standards Board has urged authorities to ensure that their Standards Committees are made aware of the change.

**3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 In accordance with the advice of the Standards Board for England, Members are requested to note the intention of the Government to vary the duties and responsibilities of Standards Committees.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Standards Board for England – Bulletin No. 36.

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