

**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE  
(Report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance  
and Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 described the size and composition of Standards Committees and the process through which Independent Members should be appointed.
- 1.2 Under these Regulations, the Council appointed three Independent Members and two Town and Parish Council representatives to serve on its Standards Committee.

**2. CURRENT SITUATION**

- 2.1 As a result of the 2008 Regulations, which provided for the initial assessment of allegations of Members' misconduct to be transferred to local authority Standards Committees, the Council agreed that an additional Independent Member and Parish Council representative be appointed to provide some flexibility in the process and ease the burden placed on the existing Members.
- 2.2 Accordingly, there are now four Independent Members and three Parish Council representatives (one parish council vacancy) serving on the Committee.
- 2.3 Following public advertisement, Independent Members are appointed to serve on the Committee for a term of four years from the date of their appointment. Until recently, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils has been invited to nominate town and parish council representatives and their nominees also have been appointed to serve on the Committee for a four year period.
- 2.4 Accordingly, the terms of office of both Independent Members and Parish Council representatives are due to expire in May 2011.

**3. INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 Although not as detailed as anticipated, the Localism Bill appears to suggest that local authorities will be able to decide whether to establish Standards Committees to continue to consider complaints of misconduct and to monitor compliance with a locally approved Code of Conduct. Uncertainty will remain until the Act is made. However and until the District Council takes a view as to how or if it wishes to maintain a Standards Committee, it would, perhaps, be premature to undertake a recruitment process for the appointment of Independent Members and Parish Council representatives for a new four-year period.
- 3.2 Subject to the agreement of the current incumbents, Messrs Hall, Boothman, Lynch and Mrs Stafford – Independent Members and

Messrs Alexander and Watkins (plus one vacancy) – Parish Council representatives, the Committee is requested to **recommend** the Council to extend the period of office of all externally appointed Members until May 2012 or until such time as the District Council takes a view on the future of the Committee whichever is the sooner.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The views of the Committee are invited.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001.  
Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.  
Article 9 – Standards Committee: District Council's Constitution.

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