
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To: **Annual Council – 12 May 2016**

By: **Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Thanet wide**

Summary: To agree to the appointment of Independent Members of the Standards Committee

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Council agreed on 27 February 2014 to appoint Independent Members to the Standards Committee as part of the process to replace the existing system for Standards.
- 1.2 Two Independent Members were then subsequently appointed being Dr Jonathan Sexton and Mrs Janet Bacon.
- 1.3 Dr Sexton was appointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee.
- 1.4 Mrs Bacon was appointed as Vice Chairman.
- 1.5 Council agreed on 21 May 2015 to approve re-appointment of Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon for another year.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The appointments made were for the last year and there is now a need to appoint Independent Persons to the Standards Committee for the coming year.
- 2.2 Independent Members were originally recruited following recommendation from the Standards Appointments Working Party.
- 2.3 Both Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon have indicated their willingness to continue as Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 To appoint Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the 2017 Annual Council meeting.
- 3.2 The Council can choose to not appoint Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members. If this is the decision taken a recruitment process would be required to recruit suitable persons to act as Independent Members. This would additionally

cause a significant delay in handling matters for investigation through the Standards process.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

4.1.1 Independent Members of the Standards Committee are entitled to a small Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA). These SRAs have been accounted for in the 2016/17 financial year.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 The Council has established a process for handling complaints through the Standards Committee which involves Independent Members which is compliant with the Localism Act 2011.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 The continued appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee will enhance public trust and confidence in the operation of the Council's ethical governance arrangements

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 There are no specific issues related to this decision.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

5.1 That Council approves the appointment of Dr Sexton and Mrs Bacon as Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the 2017 Annual Council Meeting.

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 Council is required to confirm the appointment of Independent Members to the Standards to ensure that they have a mandate to be able to perform their functions in that role.

Contact Officer:	Tim Howes – Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer – Chief Executive

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Nikki Walker, Technical Finance Manager
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer