

Standards Committee – 20th January, 2010

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Appointment of Independent Member to the Standards Committee

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the arrangements for and the making of a recommendation to the Council on the appointment of an Independent Member to serve on the Standards Committee.

Background

2. The Bishop of Dudley was appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Standards Committee in April, 2006, for a second four year term ending on 26th April, 2010.
3. The Standards Board for England (SBE) has previously issued guidance that the appointment of independent members should be on the basis of a term of 4 years with a maximum of 2 terms but that this is at the discretion of each authority. The guidance also states however that independent members cannot be automatically re-appointed and must go through a recruitment process.
4. In the light of the guidance therefore although the Bishop could be considered for appointment for a further four year term arrangements must be made for advertisement of the appointment, interviews and the making of a recommendation to the meeting of Council to be held on 26th April, 2010 .
5. Given the previous experience with such appointments it is suggested that I be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements including the convening of an interviewing panel of members of the committee so that the necessary recommendation can be made to the Council. .

Finance

6. The post of Independent Member is unpaid but an Independent Member is entitled to receive travelling expenses.

Law

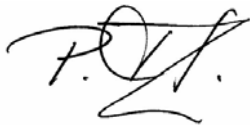
7. The appointment of Independent Members to a Standards Committee is governed by Section 56 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. At least 25% of the membership of the Standards Committee must be independent members and their appointment must be confirmed by full Council.

Equality Impact

8. The content of this report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

9. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements regarding the appointment of an Independent Member of the Council's Standards Committee with a view to the making of a recommendation to the Council on such an appointment for a four year period commencing on 27th April, 2010.



.....
Philip Tart
Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Philip Tart / Joe Jablonski
Telephone: 01384 (81)5300 / 5243
Email: philip.tart@dudley.gov.uk josef.jablonski@dudley.gov.uk

Background Papers

None