

Meeting of the Council - 27th February 2006

Report of the Acting Chairman of the Standards Committee

Appointment of Independent Members

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the recommendation of the Standards Committee regarding the appointment of two Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

Background

2. The Council is required to appoint a Standards Committee and 25% of its membership must be independent members. Currently the Standards Committee comprises six elected members (i.e. two members from each of the three political groups) and two independent members.
3. The term of office for the current two independent members expires on the 27th April 2006 and the Standards Committee has recently been engaged in the process of arranging for fresh appointments.
4. Four candidates were interviewed by the Standards Committee at its meeting on the 16th January 2006. One of the candidates was the Rt.Rev.David Walker, the Bishop of Dudley, who is currently an independent member and Chairman of the Standards Committee.
5. The Standards Committee was impressed with the calibre of all four applicants but unanimously decided to recommend to the Council that the Rt.Rev.David Walker and Miss Lesley Smith be appointed for a four-year term with effect from the 28th April 2006.
6. Miss Smith lives in Gornal Wood and works as a full-time Director's Personal Assistant for a Wolverhampton company. Miss Smith is also a volunteer with the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service.

Finance

7. The post of Independent Member is unpaid but an independent member is entitled to receive travelling expenses.

Law

8. The appointment of independent members to a Standards Committee is governed by Section 56 of the Local Government Act 2000 and by regulations made by the Secretary of State. 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

9. The process of recruiting and interviewing for Independent Member posts had complied fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that the Council appoint the Rt.Rev.David Walker and Miss Lesley Smith as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for a term of four years with effect from the 28th April 2006.



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Councillor Wayne Male
Acting Chairman of the Standards Committee