

## **Meeting of the Council - 13th July, 2009**

### **Report of the Interim Director of Law and Property**

#### **Appointment of Independent Member to the Standards Committee**

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. To consider a recommendation of the Standards Committee regarding the appointment of a third Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

##### **Background**

2. The Council is required to appoint a Standards Committee and at least 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 one of whom, the Bishop of Dudley, is the Chairman. A third independent member, a Miss L. Smith, appointed by the Council in April, 2006, has recently resigned her appointment creating a vacancy.
3. Given the difficulty experienced in securing such appointments a number of approaches were made to various persons and bodies to ascertain whether they were aware of someone who would wish to serve on the Council's Standards Committee.
4. Arising from this a panel of Members of the Standards Committee, comprising the Chairman, the Bishop of Dudley and Councillors J R Davies and Tyler, interviewed a Father Alan Williams, and were unanimous in their recommendation that his appointment be referred to the Council. Their recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Standards Committee.

##### **Finance**

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

##### **Law**

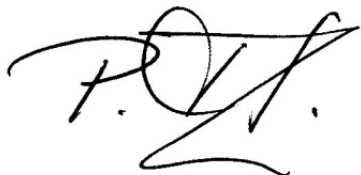
6. The appointment of independent members to a Standards Committee is governed by Section 56 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. At least 25% of the membership of the Standards Committee must be independent members and their appointment must be confirmed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

**Equality Impact**

7. The process of recruiting and interviewing for the post of Independent Member has complied fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

**Recommendation**

8. That Father Alan Williams be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of four years with effect from the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.



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**Philip Tart**  
**Interim Director of Law and Property.**