

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Council
2.	Date:	2nd February 2011
3.	Title:	Appointment of Parish Council Member to the Standards Committee
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

Council is requested to fill a vacant post for a Parish Council Member on the Council's Standards Committee.

6. Recommendation

Councillor David Rowley of Ravenfield Parish Council be appointed as a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee and Councillor Peter Blanksby of Wales Parish Council be appointed as a reserve member.

7. Proposals and Details

In May 2008, the Standards Committee assumed responsibility for carrying out initial assessments of any allegations made that Members of the Council, or of Town and Parish Councils within the Borough, have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. Should an Assessment Panel of the Committee decide to take no action on any allegation, the person making the allegation may request a review by a differently constituted panel of Members. It is a requirement for a Town and Parish Council Member to be present if the allegation relates to a Town or Parish Councillor. As a result, the Council increased the number of Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee from one to three.

A vacancy arose last year and the Yorkshire Local Councils Association has, on the Council's behalf, conducted a postal ballot among the Town and Parish Councils within the Borough to select a replacement Member. As a result of this, Councillor David Rowley of Ravenfield Parish Council has been selected to be the representative on the Committee. Councillor Peter Blanksby of Wales Parish Council has been selected as a reserve Member, should a further vacancy arise.

8. Finance

A Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee is eligible for a Co-opted Members' Allowance of £1,000 per annum and to claim travel and subsistence under the Council's scheme.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The appointment of Parish representatives is a statutory requirement. The legislation provides that when the Standards Committee or any sub-committee is discussing a Parish matter, then a Parish Council representative must be present.

Failure to appoint a sufficient number of Parish representatives would mean that the Standards Committee was unable to perform its functions.

Training will be provided for those newly appointed Parish Council representatives.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Current advice from Standards for England is that the Standards Committee should contain a minimum of three Parish Council representatives. This allows for two Members for the Assessment and Review processes, and an additional Member in the event of a possible conflict of interests.

If the Localism Bill currently before Parliament is enacted in its present form, the current standards regime will cease and the Council will be asked to determine whether to retain a Standards Committee on a voluntary basis and, if so, what should be its composition and Terms of Reference. However, the legislative process is likely to take approximately twelve months, during which the present arrangements will continue.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Standards for England "Local Standards Framework"
The Localism Bill

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