



## STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Parish Council Members of Standards Committee</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Committee Meeting Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2015
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Committee regarding Parish Members of the Committee.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 Members are recommended to agree to the appointment by co-option of two Parish Councillors to the Committee, and delegate the power to the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to make these appointments on its behalf in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Standards Committee.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background and Issues

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee state:

*The Standards Committee will be composed of 9 Councillors. In addition the Standards Committee shall appoint:*

- *such Independent Members as the Committee considers appropriate. The Independent Members shall not have the right to vote;*
- *two Parish Council Members without the right to vote.*

- 3.2 The Terms of Reference also provide for the Standards Committee to establish a Hearings Panel. The Hearings Panel would be convened on an

ad hoc basis where a Code of Conduct complaint against a Councillor (Borough or Parish) had progressed through the process to the stage where it becomes necessary to determine whether a Councillor has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. If the complaint in question was about a Parish Councillor, one of the two Parish Council Members of the Standards Committee would be an additional member of the Hearings Panel.

- 3.3 There are currently two vacancies on the Committee for Parish Council Members.
- 3.4 The Council hosted a Forum for Parish Clerks on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015. All Parish Clerks from within the Borough and the Chief Executive of Northants CALC were invited. The Forum was well attended. The Borough Secretary's Department made a presentation to the Forum on standards matters as they relate to Parish Councils including the Code of Conduct, registration and declaration of interests and the process for dealing with complaints. The need for Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee was discussed with the Clerks, who were asked to ascertain whether any of their Parish Councillors may be interested in sitting on the Standards Committee. To date, the Borough Council has received one expression of interest from a Parish Councillor.
- 3.5 Members are recommended to agree to the appointment by co-option of two Parish Councillors to the Committee, and delegate the power to the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to make these appointments on its behalf in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Standards Committee. If a number of expressions of interest are received, the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer will conduct an appropriate process to select Parish Council members.

### **3.3 Choices (Options)**

- 3.3.1 Members are asked to note the content of the Report.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 This report does not have any direct implications on policy. Policy implications are set out in the body of this Report.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 This report does not have any direct resource implications.

### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

### **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report. Any process used to select Parish Council representatives to sit on the Standards Committee in the event that there are a number of expressions of interest, will have due regard to equality and diversity implications.

**4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 Not applicable.

**4.6 Other Implications**

4.6.1 None

**5. Background Papers**

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5.1 None.

**Francis Fernandes  
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer**