

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 9 JUNE 2011
 title: VACANCIES ON STANDARDS COMMITTEE
 submitted by: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
 principal author: DIANE RICE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee about the vacancies existing on the Council's Standards Committee and to seek expressions of interest primarily in relation to the two vacancies for Parish Council Members.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Ambitions - • Community Objectives - • Corporate Priorities - • Other Considerations - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> } } } } | <p>The Council aims to be a well managed Council. Implementing the requirements of the ethical governance framework contributes to that aim, however the Council is also mindful of the proposals contained in the Localism Bill to alter significant by the role of Standards Committees.</p> |
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2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council last reviewed the composition of its Standards Committee in 2008 when Councils were required to introduce the Initial Assessment regime. This necessitated changes to the Council's Standards Committee in order that the Committee could comprise equal numbers of Parish, Borough and Independent Members.

2.2 The task of selecting new Members for the Committee was delegated to the Standards Committee; the appointments were made by Full Council.

2.3 The Committee has four Parish Council Members, two have recently ceased to be Members of Parish Councils. In addition one of the Independent Members has now become a Borough Councillor and is therefore not able to continue to act as an Independent member.

2.4 At the Annual meeting of the Council on 17 May 2011, authority was delegated to the Councils Head of Legal and Democratic Services to arrange for recruitment of additional Members.

2.5 The current Standards Committee requirements may change, once the Localism Bill becomes law.

2.6 In the interim, it is necessary to have a Standards Committee available to meet should complaints arise etc.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council's Standards Committee has its first meeting of the municipal year on 15 June 2011. At that meeting the remaining Members of the Committee will consider how to recruit the necessary additional Members to bring the Committee up to its full compliment of 12. The recommendations of the Standards Committee will have to be referred to, and endorsed by, Full Council before the appointments take effect.
- 3.2 The method of selection has not yet been determined, however Members of Parish Councils who may be interested in forming part of the Council's Standards Committee either as Parish or replacement independent Members are asked to contact the Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Diane Rice on 01200 414418 to indicate their interest in order that they can be contacted once the selection process has been finalised.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
- Resources – N/A
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
 - Political – N/A
 - Reputation – N/A

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Note the existence of the three vacancies on the Standards Committee and the opportunity for Members to express an interest in becoming a member of the Committee.

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

For further information please ask for Diane Rice, extension 4418.