

Report to Council

24 May 2017

By the Monitoring Officer

DECISION REQUIRED



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Appointment of Parish Representative to the Standards Committee

Executive Summary

This report is to appoint a Parish Representative to the Standards Committee to replace Parish Councillor Kieran Diamond who resigned from the Committee on the 1 May 2017.

Recommendation

1. That Council appoints Mr Philip Baxter of Shipley Parish Council to serve as Parish Representative on the Standards Committee for a term of office ending on the fourth day after the District Council Elections in May 2019.

Reasons for Recommendations

To fill the Parish Representative vacancy on the Standards Committee that was created following the resignation of Parish Councillor Kieran Diamond.

Background Papers

Council Agenda and minutes 15 May 2012.

Wards affected: All

Contact: Paul Cummins, Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
ext 5435

Background Information

1 Establishment of the Standards Committee

- 1.1 On 15 May 2012 Full Council resolved to establish a Standards Committee in fulfilment of the 'standards' requirements under the Localism Act 2011. Full Council resolved that membership of the Standards Committee should include two parish representatives nominated by the Horsham Association of Local Councils (HALC).
- 1.2 The two Parish Representatives are Co-Opted non-voting Members of the Standards Committee. Their role on the Committee includes, in particular, advising the Committee on Parish issues and complaints against Parish Councillors.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 The Council's policy for dealing with member complaints is detailed on the standards pages of the Council website.

3 Details

- 3.1 One of the existing Parish Representatives Parish Councillor Kieran Diamond resigned from the Committee effective from 1 May 2017 thereby creating a vacancy on the Committee.
- 3.2 HALC was, therefore, contacted by the Monitoring Officer to nominate a new Parish Representative for the Standards Committee.
- 3.3 At its meeting on the 27 April 2017 HALC nominated Parish Councillor Philip Baxter of Shipley Parish Council.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 If Full Council make the appointment then Parish Councillor Philip Baxter will serve as a Parish Representative on the Standards Committee until May 2019.

5 Outcome of Consultations

- 5.1 The nomination is made by HALC which represents all Parish and Town Councils in the Horsham area.

6 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected

- 6.1 To hold a vacancy on the Standards Committee but this would not comply with the wishes of Full Council who created the role with the intention of it being filled.

7 Resource Consequences

- 7.1 Parish Representatives receive an allowance which currently stands at £1250 pa (as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel). The appointment fills a vacancy and therefore is within budget.

8 Legal Consequences

- 8.1 The legal consequences are contained within the body of the report.

9 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 If the Council does not appoint Parish Representatives to the Standards Committee it would not be able to process Parish Member complaints in accordance with its own procedures.

10 Other Considerations

- 10.1 Recruiting a Parish Representative and retaining an enforceable Code of Conduct supports the Council's obligation to deal with complaints fairly and proportionately.