

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2 February 2009

Independent Member Appointment

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the arrangements for the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2005, Mr Daghish was appointed to the Standards Committee as an independent Member for a four year period, until the annual County Council meeting in May 2009 (which will now take place on 17 June 2009).
- 2.2 It is now timely to consider the necessary recruitment process for the independent Member position currently held by Mr Daghish.

3.0 RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 3.1 The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 state that a person may only be appointed as an independent Member of a standards committee if the appointment is:
- (a) approved by a majority of the members of the authority;
 - (b) advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the authority, and in such other publications or websites as the authority considers appropriate;
 - (c) of a person who submitted an application to the authority.

It will therefore be necessary for the authority to advertise for a new independent Member and to refer the appointment to the authority for approval by a majority. Regard must be had to the Regulations and the relevant Standards Board Guidance in the appointment of independent Members to the Standards Committee.

- 3.2 All functions in respect of the publication of independent Member vacancies were delegated to the Standards Committee by the Executive on 8 July 2008. The Standards Committee agreed, following such delegation, that all such functions should then be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Committee. However, given that this recruitment process relates to the position held by the Chair, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer, on this occasion, should exercise her delegated functions in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Committee.
- 3.3 The power to assist in the recruitment of independent Members to the Standards Committee (but not to approve individual appointments) was also delegated to the Committee by the Executive on 8 July 2008.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that an appropriate advertisement be placed in a local newspaper (and in the NY Times, if publication timescales permit) and on the Council's website (and publicised in any other ways the Monitoring Officer and Vice-Chair of the

Committee deem suitable), after which the Vice-Chair of the Committee and the Monitoring Officer would undertake short-listing of the applicants.

- 3.6 Subsequently a meeting of a panel of Members drawn from this Committee would be required to interview the short-listed candidates and make recommendations to the Standards Committee, at its meeting on 18 May 2009, as to the most suitable candidate. It is recommended that the panel should be comprised of two independent Members and two elected Members and also attended by the Monitoring Officer (not part of the panel) and the Principal Committee Administrator (to take notes, also not part of the panel). Members are requested to indicate their willingness to participate in the interview panel.
- 3.7 At its meeting on 18 May 2009, the Standards Committee would then consider the panel's recommendations re the most suitable candidate. The Committee would then recommend to the Authority, at the Authority's meeting on 17 June 2009, which candidate should be appointed.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That a recruitment process for the independent Member position currently held by Mr Darglish be commenced;
- 4.2 That Members approve the proposed recruitment process set out in this report;
- 4.3 That Members indicate their willingness to participate in the interview panel.

CAROLE DUNN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:

Minutes of Standards Committee meetings.

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

22 January 2009