

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

14 July 2008

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Democratic Services Officer

APPOINTMENT TO APPOINTMENTS PANEL

Purpose

1. The recruitment process to find two further independent appointees to Standards Committee will shortly close, and an Appointments Panel will need to sit, to firstly shortlist and then interview applicants. This report examines the possibilities available to Standards Committee for the creation of an Appointments Panel that reflects the wishes of the Committee yet remains legitimate under the constitution.

Background

2. Article 9.02(c) of the Constitution covers the appointment of Independent Members to Standards Committee:

'Their appointment shall be ratified by Council on the recommendation of the appointments panel of the Standards Committee, its size and composition to be determined by the committee Chairman in consultation with the Monitoring Officer'

3. On the 11 June 2008, Standards Committee decided to seek from Council an amendment to Article 9 of the Constitution (minute 10/2008):

*Standards Committee **RESOLVED** that an amendment to the constitution (article 9.02(c)) be sought from Council to give the appointment of members to any Appointments Panel of the Standards Committee to the Standards Committee.*

4. A report is prepared for the meeting of Council on the 17 July 2008 seeking an amendment to Article 9 in line with the wishes of this committee, but Standards Committee cannot assume at this juncture that Council shall make those changes.

Considerations

5. The Appointments Panel must be appointed in accordance with the Constitution as it is currently, to be able to make legitimate recommendations to Standards Committee and Council. The feeling of the meeting of the 11 June was such, that any decisions of an Appointments Panel thus appointed would lack legitimacy within the Standards Committee, even if those decisions were indeed legitimate under the Constitution.

Standards Committee, through its Chairman, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, needs to find a way to appoint an Appointments Panel at its meeting on the 14 July 2008 to satisfy both its Members and the Constitution, and thus avoid the necessity of holding another meeting (post Council on the 17 July 2008) to appoint an Appointments Panel. This is almost certainly why the decision was delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, in the first place.

Options

- 6.
- (a) Follow article 9.02(c) of the Constitution.
 - (b) Await the decision of Council and then hold a further meeting
 - (c) Find a middle way

7.

Financial	Non Specific
Legal	Non Specific
Staffing	Non Specific
Risk Management	Non Specific
Equal Opportunities	Non Specific

Recommendation

8. That the Deputy Monitoring Officer shall receive nominations from Members of Standards Committee willing to sit on an Appointments Panel (Members shall be able to nominate themselves, either orally at the meeting, or by email/telephone, should they be unable to attend). The size and composition of the thus nominated Appointments Panel shall then be so determined by the committee Chairman in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Constitution of South Cambridgeshire District Council

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