

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

10th December 2008

AUTHOR/S: Monitoring Officer

REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE PANELS

Purpose

1. To ask the committee to re-consider the current membership of its sub-committees and make changes where necessary.

2. **Background**

The legislation and guidance made appointing sub-committees mandatory for the Assessment and Review role. Councils had the discretion whether to appoint a sub-committee to receive reports of Investigating Officers and to conduct hearings. At its meeting in June 2008 the Committee decided to set up three sub-committees (panels) and appoint members of each Sub-Committee for one year, to be reviewed where necessary.

At that time the committee had yet to appoint two new parish members and the parish membership of the sub-committee had to be split between the two existing parish representatives. The Committee may wish to restructure this to share the workload more evenly.

The membership of the Hearings Panel was set at five members with no substitutes allowed. It has become apparent that it would be advisable to increase the membership of the panel to allow for its members being unable to sit on a case due to a conflict of interest. It is suggested that either the whole committee is appointed to the panel and then membership for a particular panel be appointed on a case by case basis, depending on availability and any conflicts of interest, or an increased membership is appointed. The Committee will need to consider who would be responsible for appointing panel membership in these circumstances.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the committee appoints its two new parish members to a panel role and that it increases the membership of the Hearings Panel to whatever number it sees fit.

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