

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 13 August 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Appointment of Independent Member of Standards Committee

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to make a recommendation to Council with regard to the appointment of a new independent member to the Council's Standards Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council appoint Robert Garner as a new independent member of the Council's Standards Committee until the end of the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members will recall having agreed at Annual Council to increase the size of the Standards Committee by one additional Independent member and one additional Parish member.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee decided at its last meeting that the Chair and the Monitoring Officer would interview applicants with an elected member of the committee, prior to making a recommendation direct to Council. The vacancy for an independent member was therefore advertised in accordance with the statutory requirements and one application was received. Mr. Robert Garner is presently an independent member of the Cheshire Fire Authority Standards Committee and has recently retired as a self employed assessor and advisor on Investors in People National Standard. Prior to that, he had a thirty seven year career with the Civil Service. He has a good understanding of the workings of local authorities as a result of his professional career, and has a strong belief in high standards in public life. As a member of the Fire Authorities Standards Committee, he has attended the Standards Board for England's Annual Conference on several occasions and has a good understanding of the workings of Standards Committees. It is suggested that he would be eminently suitable as a new additional independent member of the Standards Committee.

3.3 Negotiations are currently ongoing in respect of filling the Parish Council vacancy and any progress on this matter will be reported to the meeting.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton – None.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton – None.

6.4 A Safer Halton – None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal – None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Good Corporate Governance including high ethical standards are vital to ensure that public trust and confidence in local authorities is maintained and enhanced. Independent members of the Standards Committee are a key control measure in helping to maintain high standards in the Council's Ethical Governance arrangements.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Application of Robert Garner.