



AGENDA ITEM: 9

SUMMARY

Report for:	Council
Date of meeting:	15 July 2015
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Contact:	Steven Baker, Assistant Director (Chief Executive's Unit) Directline: 01442 228229, internal extension: 2229 steve.baker@dacorum.gov.uk
Purpose of report:	To seek the approval of Council to the appointment of two Independent Members to the Standards Committee.
Recommendation	That Council appoints John Ebdon and Brendan Henry to the Standards Committee as co-opted Independent Members with no voting rights until the Annual Council held in 2019.
Corporate objectives:	The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members of the Council will assist the Council in achieving its priorities of performance excellence and reputation and profile delivery.
Implications: 'Value For Money Implications'	There are financial and efficiency costs to the Council in having to deal with complaints made under the Code of Conduct. There are, therefore, value for money benefits to the Council in striving to ensure that complaints against Members are minimised as far as possible and any complaints that are received are dealt with as cost effectively as possible.
Risk Implications	The risk to the Council in not having in place a robust local standards regime could damage its reputation for good governance and undermine public confidence in the Council as

	a whole.
Monitoring Officer	This is a report prepared by the Assistant Director (Chief Executive's Unit) in his capacity as Monitoring Officer.
Consultees:	None
Background papers:	None

BACKGROUND REPORT

1. Under Article 8 of the Council's Constitution - 'Measures For Standards of Conduct' - the membership of the Standards Committee shall include two co-opted Independent Members with no voting rights. The terms of office of the current Independent Members on the Standards Committee have now expired and the Standards Committee has carried out a recruitment process for two new Independent Members.
2. Persons who wish to be considered for appointment as Independent Members to the Standards Committee must live in Dacorum. They cannot within the last five years have been a member or an officer of the Council, or of a Town or Parish Council in Dacorum. Nor can they be a relative or close friend of a member or officer of the Council, or of a Town or Parish Council in Dacorum. They cannot also be, or have been, actively involved in party politics.
3. The Council reserves the right to remove an Independent Member from the Standards Committee if their independence is in anyway compromised, and/or they bring the reputation of the Council into disrepute.
4. The positions were advertised in the summer edition of Dacorum Digest and the closing date for applications was 29th June. There were nine expressions of interest and five completed applications were received by the deadline. A shortlist a three candidates were interviewed on the 8th and 13th July.
5. It is recommended that John Ebdon and Brendan Henry be appointed to serve as the two co-opted Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the Annual Council held in 2019.
6. Mr Ebdon has lived most of his life in Hemel Hempstead. He is a retired chartered surveyor and spent most of his working life with the Valuation Office Agency, including four years as its Personnel Director and ending up as the Deputy Chief Executive. His hobby is walking and he is an occasional conservation volunteer for the Box Moor Trust.
7. Mr Henry has lived in Hemel Hempstead since 1997 and is associate editor at Sky Sports News. He describes his role as a manager of a team of managers and has plenty of experience of conflict resolution and an understanding of how internal HR issues are resolved. His hobby is playing golf.