

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Standards Committee**

**27 July 2023**

**Parish Council Representatives on Standards Committee**

**Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To raise the issue of the recruitment of new Parish Council representatives to the Standards Committee

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Members decide if the two Parish Council representatives should be selected in the following way:
  - a) each Parish Council is asked if they wish to put forward a Member of the Parish Council as a Parish Council representative.
  - b) the Chairman of Standards Committee be asked to pick two names from a ballot box as the representatives of the Parish Councils on the Standards Committee
  - c) that the representatives are appointed until May 2027.
  
2. That the Constitutional changes be recommended to Council for approval.

**IMPLICATIONS**

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**Finance and Risk:** Yes  No

**Details:**

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):**

Yes

No

Details:

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:** Yes

No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £250,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cabinet</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SMT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	None  Details:

**Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

None

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 **Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

1.1 The Standards Committee under the previous administration include two Parish Councillors as representatives of the Parish Councils on the Committee. The

two representatives had no right to vote, but could speak and offer an opinion from a Parish Council's point of view.

- 1.2 The Parish Council representatives were selected by an election conducted amongst the Parish Councils. Parish Councillors put themselves forward as individuals. This resulted in the two Parish Councillors coming from the same Parish Council.
- 1.3 During the consideration of the Constitution, the Members of the previous Standards Committee meeting as a working party, considered this situation. Initially they decided that the Parish Council representatives would no longer be sought. On further reflection, the Members decided that provided it could be ensured that the two Parish Council representatives came from different Parish Councils, there should continue to be two Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee.
- 1.4 This report proposes new arrangements for selecting Parish Council Members on the Standards Committee.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The running of an election amongst the Parish Councils, as said above, has resulted in both Parish Councils representatives coming from the same Parish Council.
- 2.2 To avoid this happening an alternative way of selecting the representatives would be to ask each Parish Council to submit a nomination. The selection would then be by someone (the Chair) picking the successful candidates from a ballot box.
- 2.3 Whilst this does not give all Parish Councillors a vote, it does ensure that each Council can put forward a nomination. This means the process is as inclusive as possible. There would have to be sufficient time for all Parish Councils to meet and make their nominations following the August recess.
- 2.4 If Members are wishing to pursue this route, it would have to be a recommendation to Council to change the Terms of Reference to this Committee. These explicitly state that the two representatives should be elected.
- 2.5 Members may wish to consider whether there should be any consultation on the mechanism with the Parish and Town Councils.
- 2.6 Members are also asked to propose any suggestions that they have for how to select the Parish Council representatives for consideration by Committee.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 To ensure that the two Parish Council representatives come from different Parish and Town Councils.

#### 4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 To continue with the existing election process. This would not ensure that the representatives came from different Parish or Town Councils.

#### **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
<b>None</b>	