

**Committee:** FULL COUNCIL

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** April 17, 2007

**12**

**Title:** APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS  
TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Author:** Michael Perry, Assistant Chief Executive,  
(01799 510416)

Item for Decision

---

## Summary

1. On 12 December 2006 the Council nominated the Constitution Task Group to recommend the appointment of Independent Persons to the Council's Standards Committee. An interview panel was selected and interviewed potential candidates. This report is to inform the Council of the recommendations of the interview panel.

## Recommendations

2. That Article 10.2 of the Constitution be amended to provide for the Standards Committee to consist of 4 elected members, 3 independent members and 2 members from Town or Parish Councils.
3. That Mr S Brady, Mr M Hall and Mrs R Whitlam be appointed as Independent Persons to the Standards Committee with effect from 22 May 2007 until the next ordinary election of the Council.
4. In the event that the Council does not resolve to adopt the recommendation contained in paragraph 2 above that the Council appoints Mr S Brady and Mr M Hall as Independent Persons to the Standards Committee with effect from 22 May 2007 until the next ordinary election of the Council.

## Background Papers

5. None.

## Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	The vacancies were advertised twice in the local press and letters were sent to various groups informing them of the vacancies.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	None.

Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

7. Having interviewed potential candidates for the position of Independent Person the interview panel were of the view that 3 candidates were of exceptional quality and that it would be unfortunate not to have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of all three on the Standards Committee.
8. The Constitution of the Council provides that the Standards Committee should consist of 8 persons, 4 elected members, 2 independent persons and 2 persons representing Town or Parish Councils. The interview panel therefore recommends that Full Council resolves to increase the numbers of Independent Persons on the Standards Committee to 3. In the event that such a proposal is made the provisions of the Constitution require the motion to stand adjourned without discussion to the next meeting of the Council which will be the annual meeting.
9. The proposal does mean that non-elected members will be in the majority of the Standards Committee. However, it should be borne in mind that under the Constitution the Chairman of the Standards Committee must be an Independent Person who therefore has a casting vote. Although the recommendation was not accepted by the Government the Graeme Committee in the tenth report on Standards in Public Life recommended that the majority of members of Standards Committees should be Independent Persons.
10. In the event that the Council decides not to increase the number of Independent Persons on the Standards Committee, of the three candidates favoured by the interview panel, the panel would recommend Mr S Brady and Mr M Hall for appointment.