

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11TH DECEMBER 2008

COUNCIL DECISIONS - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CODE AND CONSULTATION PAPER ON NEW CODES OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Roger Smith
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of the decisions made by the Council at its meeting on 12th November 2008 in relation to:

- (i) the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee;
- (ii) the Council's Confidential Reporting Code; and
- (iii) the Department of Communities and Local Government Consultation Paper entitled "Communities in Control: Real people, real power - Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees".

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

I. Appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee

3.1 Following interviews which took place with the Appointments Committee on 20th October 2008, the Council considered a recommendation of the Committee for the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

It was RESOLVED:

that Ms. Debbie Roberts be appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Standards Committee for a four year term of office expiring November 2012.

II. Confidential Reporting Code

- 3.2 At its meeting 16th October 2008 the Standards Committee reviewed, for the first time, the Council's Confidential Reporting Code ("the Code") and made a recommendation to the Council that responsibility for reviewing and monitoring the Code be transferred to the Audit Board.

It was RESOLVED:

that the Constitution be amended to transfer responsibility for reviewing and monitoring the Confidential Reporting Code to the Audit Board.

III. Consultation Paper on new Codes of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees

- 3.3 At its meeting on 16th October 2008 the Standards Committee considered its responses to 22 questions posed in a Consultation Paper issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government ("DCLG") on changes to the Code of Conduct for local authority members and on a proposed new Code of Conduct for local government employees ("the Consultation Paper").
- 3.4 The Standards Committee's responses were considered by the Council, together with the responses of the Corporate Management Team and Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development in relation to the Employees' Code.

It was RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Group Leaders submit a response to the questions posed in the Consultation Paper to the Monitoring Officer by the end of November 2008; and that the Monitoring Officer collate these and send a formal response from the Council to the DCLG; and
- (b) that it be noted that individual responses may be sent to the DCLG.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This report does not directly link with any of the Council's objectives.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no risks associated with this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

None

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	None
Governance/Performance Management	None
Community Safety including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	None
Environmental	None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No
Executive Director - Services	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No

Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. APPENDICES

None

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 16th October 2008.

Minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 20th October 2008.

Agenda for and minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2008.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Debbie Parker-Jones
Ethical Standards Officer
Email: d.parkerjones@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Direct line: (01527) 881411