

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2009

Title of report	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Contacts	<p>Councillor Matthew Blain 07979 852069 matthew.blain@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Melanie Phillips, Democratic Services Manager 01530 454511 Melanie.phillips@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To consider a recommendation from the Standards Committee on its appointment of an independent member.
Strategic aims	All
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	None applicable
Link to relevant CAT	None applicable
Risk Management	Failure to appoint a sufficient number of independent members will leave the Standards Committee inquorate and unable to fulfill its statutory requirements.
Equalities Impact Assessment	None applicable
Human Rights	None applicable
Transformational Government	None applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	Members of the Standards Committee.

Background papers	The Relevant Authorities [Standards Committees] Regulations 2001. The Constitution - web link - www.nwleics.gov.uk .
Recommendations	THAT JOHN BETTERIDGE BE APPOINTED AS THE FIFTH INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM COMMENCING 27TH FEBRUARY 2009.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committees) Regulations 2001 require membership of the Standards Committee to include at least 25 per cent independent (non-councillor) members. The Standards Board for England, in its guidance, states:-

“The reason for having an independent representative is to help increase public confidence and provide a clear signal that the Committee is fair. The independent representative also brings a wider perspective from outside experiences. There is no limit to the number of independent representatives that you can have on your Standards Committee”.

- 1.2 At its meeting on 24th June 2008, Council amended the terms of reference of the Standards Committee to reflect an increase in the membership which is now:-

- 5 independent members;
- 5 District Councillors; and
- 4 Town/Parish Council representatives.

- 1.3 On 10th December 2008, a letter of resignation was received from Kirsty Morrison as an independent member of the Standards Committee. This leaves a vacancy.

2.0 APPOINTMENTS PROCESS

- 2.1 Members may recall that the Standards Appointments Panel comprising Councillor Legrys, Norman Bird and Maureen Havers met on 7th and 16th May 2008 to interview the shortlisted applicants for a previous vacancy. The vacancy was then filled. The Panel was impressed with the overall quality of the candidates and felt that, based on the interviews and scoring against the selection criteria, one of the candidates, John Betteridge, should be selected as a reserve should a further vacancy arise. References were sought and Mr Betteridge's details were placed on file.
- 2.2 John Betteridge has confirmed that he would like to accept the appointment.
- 2.3 The Standards Committee, at its meeting on 28th January 2009 therefore recommended that Council endorse the appointment of John Betteridge for a four year term commencing 27th February 2009.