

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 11 DECEMBER 2013

Title of report	NOMINATION OF PARISH MEMBERS
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Purpose of report	To seek the Committee's approval to the proposed nomination process of Parish Members to the Assessment and Determinations Sub Committee.
Council Priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The process adopted may require some resourcing from the Democratic Services Team, however this is not likely to increase the work the team are already doing in this area.
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	The Council's governance arrangements are a fundamental part of the Authority's management of risk and contribute towards good corporate governance.
Equalities Impact Assessment	Equality Impact Assessment already undertaken, any issues identified have been actioned.
Human Rights	None identified
Transformational Government	No direct implications
Consultees	Parish Members

Background papers	<p>Council report dated 23 February 2012 Localism Act 2011 Report</p> <p>Council report dated June 2012 Localism Act 2011 Report</p> <p>Localism Act 2011 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted</p>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED NOMINATION PROCESS OF PARISH MEMBERS TO THE ASSESSMENT AND DETERMINATION SUB COMMITTEES 2. TO AGREE THE PROPOSED CONTACT WITH PARISH COUNCILS 3. TO AGREE TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FROM PARISH COUNCILS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE IN MARCH 2014

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As a result of the changes to the standards regime introduced by the Localism Act 2011 Parish Members no longer have an automatic right to be members of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 1.2 However it was agreed by Council that it would be useful for Parish Members to continue to be involved in matters concerning Parish Members, where appropriate, as Assessment and Determination sub-committees would benefit from their experience of parish matters.
- 1.3 The Council's adopted Arrangements therefore allows for the co-option of Parish Members onto the Assessment and Determinations Sub Committee.
- 1.4 Following the adoption of the new standards regime in July 2012 the Parish Members appointed to the former Audit and Standards Committee were no longer entitled to sit on the new Audit and Governance Committee, however they nominally remained available to be co-opted to sit on any sub-committee (as a non-voting member) on an ad hoc basis.
- 1.5 Of the 4 Parish Members previously selected to the old Audit and Standards Committee the District Council is aware that two of those Parish Members have resigned their positions and the term of office of another Member who was previously nominated to sit on the Standards Committee has now expired. There are currently therefore, three vacancies for Parish Members.

2.0 THE LEGISLATION

- 2.1 As the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee has been determined by Council it is a matter for the membership of the sub-committees (Assessment and Determination) to be determined by the Audit and Governance Committee in relation to Parish and Independent members and it is a matter for this committee to determine how and who they want to co-opt.
- 2.2 Council fixed the membership of the sub-committees allowing for one co-opted Parish Member and one co-opted Independent Member where it was relevant to do so.

3.0 PROPOSED PROCESS

- 3.1 In light of the vacancies which have become available it is proposed to write to Parish Councils seeking nominations from Parish Members to fill the 3 vacancies thereby maintaining a pool of 4 Parish Members available for co-option as and when required.
- 3.2 In order to ensure effective administration of the Assessment and Determination sub-committees co-option to a particular sub-committee will be entirely at the discretion of the Monitoring Officer from the pool of approved Parish Members
- 3.3 It is proposed that appointments to the pool will be until the expiration of the Parish Members term of office (May 2015) or until such time as a Parish Member ceases to hold elected office if sooner.
- 3.4 In requesting nominations, Audit and Governance Committee will request that Parish Councils provide nominations by the end of February to enable the nominations to be considered and formally approved at its next meeting on 26 March 2013.