

**Title of Report : STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF  
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND PARISH COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**Report of :** Head of Legal and Democratic Services

**To :** Council

**Date :** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007

**Item No :** 4

**Purpose of report :** To enable Council to agree the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee and to appoint a Parish Council representative to the Committee

**Recommendation(s) :** To RECOMMEND Council that:-

1. The following persons be appointed to the Standards Committee with immediate effect to serve until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010:-

Chris Ballinger  
Meryll Dean  
Martin Gardner

2. That Anne Gwinnett hold a “watching brief” on the Committee until the end of the current Council Year and then be appointed as an independent member to serve until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.
3. That Littlemore Parish Councillor Fred Mogridge be appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee, to serve until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

**Key decision :** No

**Portfolio Holder :** Not applicable

**Scrutiny Responsibility :** Not applicable

**Ward(s) affected :** All

**Report Approved by :** Jeremy Thomas (Legal)

**Policy Framework :** Not applicable

1. This report concerns the appointment of independent members and a Parish Council representative to the Council’s Standards Committee.

2. At present the Standards Committee consists of five members of Council (one from each political group represented on the Council), one parish Council representative (to represent the four Oxford parishes) and three independent members. There is one independent vacancy at present and the position of parish representative is also vacant.
3. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee are the two independent members currently serving. The term of office of the independent member who is the Chair expires at the end of the 2009/2010 Council Year. The term of office of the independent member who is the Vice-Chair expires at the end of the current Council Year. The Vice-Chair has indicated that he would like to stand down as an independent member when his term of office comes to an end.
4. We have advertised for and interviewed potential independent members. We had a strong field of applicants. The interviewing panel (Councillors Hollander, Sanders and Sargent) would like to increase the number of independent members of the Committee. This is in part because of the high calibre of the applicants for the position but also in anticipation of the increased workload of the Standards Committee in dealing locally at all stages of the process with allegations of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by members and parish councillors. The first part of this process is often referred to as the "local filter" and is likely to come into operation in April 2008. The interviewing panel would also like to nominate a member to hold a "watching brief" until the end of the current Council Year when the term of office of the Vice-Chair comes to an end.
5. Council is being recommended that the following persons be appointed to the Standards Committee with immediate effect to serve until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010:-
  - Chris Ballinger
  - Meryll Dean
  - Martin Gardner

Council is also being recommended that Anne Gwinnett hold a "watching brief" on the Committee until the end of the current Council Year and then be appointed as an independent member to serve until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

6. The Standards Committee has run for some months now with a vacancy for a Parish Council representative. The four Parish Councils have now either agreed between themselves or have not demurred in the appointment of Littlemore Parish Councillor Fred Mogridge as the Parish Council representative, to serve on the Committee until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Council is being recommended accordingly.

**Name and contact details of author:-**

William Reed  
Democratic Services Manager  
Town Hall Oxford OX1 4EY  
Tel: 01865 252230 e-mail: [wreed@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:wreed@oxford.gov.uk)

Background papers: None