

To: Standards Committee
Date: 11 July 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	This report details the proposal for Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee.
Key decision:	No
Recommendation: That the Standards Committee resolves to:	
1. Recommend that Full Council appoints Councillor Peter Nowland of Blackbird Leys Parish Council as the co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee representing the four Parish Councils in Oxford until May 2026.	

Introduction and background

1. The Council may appoint members of committees who are not members of the local authority. Such persons may be appointed because they can offer specialist knowledge, expertise or enthusiasm in the work of the committee or because they represent sections of the local community that are relevant to the work of the committee.
2. Effective from May 2022, the Members' Code of Conduct is shared by all District Councils and the County Council within Oxfordshire. It is the intention that all local authorities within Oxfordshire will share the same Code of Conduct once the new Code has been considered by Parish Councils in the next few months. If adopted by all local authorities within Oxfordshire, the Members' Code of Conduct will apply equally to parish councillors as to city (and county) councillors.

Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee

3. The Oxford City Council Standards Committee membership provides for one co-opted (non-voting) member to represent the four Parish Councils in Oxford.

4. On 29 November 2021, Council resolved to appoint Councillor Peter Nowland to the position until May 2022 (when his term of office ended, pending re-election). That period has now lapsed, therefore Council is required to agree an appointment.
5. The Parish Councils may agree jointly on a single nominee or they may submit individual nominations from each Parish Council.
6. There are no rules concerning the qualifications but common sense suggests that:
 - The appointment would be for the duration of the representative's term of office on the Parish Council; this is to provide a degree of consistency and continuity.
 - The appointment should not be for a dual-hatted City and Parish Councillor.
7. Only one Parish Council submitted a nomination, with no objections from the remaining Parish Councils:
 - Councillor Peter Nowland, Blackbird Leys Parish Council
8. Councillor Nowland's current term of office at Blackbird Leys Parish Council ends in May 2026. Councillor Nowland has been a member of the Parish Council since 2016.

Legal implications

9. The Council has the power under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint persons other than members of the authority to committees. The composition of the Standards Committee is set out in Part 14.3 of the Constitution and provides for a non-voting co-opted member to represent the parish councils in Oxford.

Financial implications

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Co-opted members of committees are not entitled to be paid allowances under the Councillors' Allowances Scheme (Part 26 of the Constitution).

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