

To: Standards Committee
Date: 17 March 2026
Report of: Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer)
Title of Report: Appointment of a Parish Council representative as a non-voting member of the Standards Committee

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	For the Standards Committee to recommend to full Council the Parish Council representative on the committee as a non-voting member.
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member:	N/A
Corporate Priority:	A Well Run Council
Policy Framework:	None.

Recommendation(s):
That the Standards Committee resolves to:
1. Recommend to Full Council to appoint Councillor David Newman 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.

Information Exempt from Publication	
N/A	N/A

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
N/A	N/A	N/A

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. The provision for this is listed at part 14.3 of the Council's Constitution.
2. The Members' Code of Conduct is shared by all Parish Councils, District Councils and the County Council within Oxfordshire, and will apply equally to parish councillors as to city (and county) councillors.

Standards Committee and Appointment from the Parish Councils

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). Full Council reappointed Councillor Nowland in July 2022 until May 2026; that period will soon elapse, and 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 of the appointment, 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 David Newman, Blackbird Leys Parish Council
8. Councillor Newman's current term of office at Blackbird Leys Parish Council ends in May 2027. Councillor Newman has been a member of the Parish Council since May 2023.

Alternative Options Considered

9. The Standards Committee could not recommend to appoint Councillor Newman to the Standards Committee, however it would be considered to be inappropriate. The Parish Councils have submitted their nomination to represent their views at the Standards Committee, and it would not be appropriate to recommend against their requested appointment.
10. It would also leave the Parish Councils without a representative at the first Standards Committee of the new municipal year in June 2026.

Implications of Local Government Reorganisation

11. Traditionally, the nomination has been for a four-year term, however Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is due to take effect from 1 May 2028 and Councillor Newman's term of office is due to expire in May 2027. Depending on where the Council is during the process of LGR, officers will advise on how the appointment should be made in 12 months' time.
12. Thereafter any future nomination to the equivalent of the Standards Committee would be a matter for the new Unitary Authority.

Financial implications

13. 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).

Legal issues

14. 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.

Report author	Jonathan Malton
Job title	Committee and Member Services Manager
Service area or department	Law, Governance and Strategy
Telephone	01865 602767
E-mail	jmalton@oxford.gov.uk

Background Papers:	
1	Oxford City Council Constitution Part14OtherCommitteeprocedures2025.pdf
2	Oxford City Council Constitution Part22MembersCodeofConduct.pdf
3	Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

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