

Chichester District Council

Standards Committee

November 2023

Parish Representatives

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee approve the Parish Councillors listed in this report to the role of Parish Representative of this Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this Committee provide for the right to appoint three or more members as Parish Representatives. The Council standards committee has appointed representatives to this role for many years.
- 3.2 This committee carries out several duties to oversee standards and the duties of members of District and Parish Councils within the area of the District. Those duties are framed by ss. 26 to 37 of the Localism Act 2011 and it is required that the Committee is politically balanced. As Parish members they are not politically aligned so do not affect the political balance of the Committee.
- 3.3 By operation of s.104 of the Local Government Act 1972 independent members such as Parish representatives must be non-voting for the full committee. However, they are able to speak and receive all information as any other member is entitled.
- 3.4 The terms of reference of this Committee require a Parish Councillor to be present when Parish Council complaints are being discussed so the appointments will enable the Council to fulfil its duties as to s.27 of the Localism Act 2011 being the oversight of the conduct of Parish Councillors.
- 3.5 An exercise to encourage all Parishes to propose representatives was undertaken earlier this year. A strong response was received - 14 applications were submitted and it was commented that every applicant could have carried out the role. These applications were shortlisted for the Chair of this Committee by the Monitoring Officer. The shortlist was created looking to generate a geographically spread range of members, with diverse interests in particular as to standards and governance. The Chair approved the shortlist after a meeting considering the applications.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. This Committee addresses conduct by both Parish and District members and having a Parish representative will enable the Council to operate for matters discussing allegations as to Parishes or otherwise as to Parishes in accordance with the Constitution.
- 4.2 Parish representatives will ensure that the duty of the Committee to provide advice to Parish Councils can be done from an informed position through the involvement of the Parish representatives.
- 4.3 Parish representatives will also be able to provide a purely Parish perspective upon conduct matters.
- 4.4 Overall, better and more informed conduct decisions will be made by the involvement of Parish Representatives.

5. Alternatives that have been considered

- 5.1 The opportunity to apply was sent out to all Parishes and volunteers sought from every Parish. The Chair carried out a shortlisting process and all candidates were considered against the requirements of the roles.

6. Resource and legal implications

- 6.1 Budget implications are limited and officer support for the Committee and Sub Committees is met from existing budgets. The legal requirements for panels are set out in this report.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 All Parishes were approached for Councillors willing to undertake this role.

8. Community impact and corporate risks

- 9.1 Effective decision making is informed decision making and uninformed decision making would be a corporate risk. By involving Parish representatives Conduct decision making will include the perspective of Parishes.

9. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
If you tick "Yes", list your impact assessment as a background paper in paragraph 13 and explain any major risks in paragraph 9		
	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder: The Council has a duty "to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area". Do the proposals in the report have any implications for increasing or reducing crime and disorder?	Yes	

By its nature representatives on Standards are there to enable a more informed, stronger, decision making on conduct including conduct which is a breach of criminal duties upon Councillors.		
Climate Change and Biodiversity: Are there any implications for the mitigation of/adaptation to climate change or biodiversity issues? If in doubt, seek advice from the Environmental Strategy Unit (ESU).		No
Human Rights and Equality Impact: You should complete an Equality Impact Assessment when developing new services, policies or projects or significantly changing existing ones. For more information, see Equalities FAQs and guidance on the intranet or contact Corporate Policy.		No – changes are not considered so significant as to required EIA.
Safeguarding and Early Help: The Council has a duty to cooperate with others to safeguard children and adults at risk. Do these proposals have any implication for either increasing or reducing the levels of risk to children or adults at risk? The Council has committed to dealing with issues at the earliest opportunity, do these proposals have any implication in reducing or increasing demand on Council services?		No
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): Does the subject of the report have significant implications for processing data likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals? Processing that is likely to result in a high risk includes (but is not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • systematic and extensive processing activities and where decisions that have legal effects – or similarly significant effects – on individuals. • large scale processing of special categories of data or personal data relation to criminal convictions or offences. • Any larger scale processing of personal data that affects a large number of individuals; and involves a high risk to rights and freedoms e.g. based on the sensitivity of the processing activity. • large scale, systematic monitoring of public areas (including by CCTV). Note - If a high risk is identified a Privacy Impact Assessment must be provided to the Data Protection Officer.		No
Other (Please specify): eg health and wellbeing		

10. Appendices

11.1 Appendix One – list of proposed representatives with outline of their experience.

11. Background Papers

None