

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 27 MARCH 2012
title: LOCALISM ACT - STANDARDS
submitted by: DIANE RICE – HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
principal author: DIANE RICE – HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the recommendation of the Standards Committee in relation to future arrangements for standards.

1.2 To seek Committee's nomination of two Members to take part in the process of recruiting independent persons for the new standards regime.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions - }
- Community Objectives - } The Council seeks to be a well-managed Council, effective arrangements for governance
- Corporate Priorities - } contributes to this objective.
- Other Considerations - }

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 This matter was considered by Committee at its January meeting and by the Standards Committee on the 1 February 2012. Responsibility for standards remains with the Standards Committee until July 2012. Responsibility for allocation of the Council's duties between the Council's various committees is a matter for the Policy and Finance Committee.

2.2 The Standards Committee were unanimously of the view that the Council should retain a separate Standards Committee, comprised of Borough Members and if possible Parish Council Members but without the involvement of any Independent Members, as the Independent role will be taken up by the Independent persons. A copy of the relevant minute is attached as Appendix 1.

2.3 The Standards Committee resolved to commence the process to recruit two Independent persons for the new regime. The Committee agreed to form a sub-group of six Members, comprising the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, two representatives from Policy and Finance Committee and two representatives from Personnel Committee, to carry out the selection process and make recommendations to the Council about recruitment.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Council need to consider whether it wishes to adopt the recommendation of the Standards Committee and create a separate Standards Committee. If this is the

case Members may wish to consider delegating this matter to the same group of 4 Members as are considering arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny.

- 3.2 It would assist the group if Policy and Finance Committee were to indicate whether it accepts the recommendation of the Standards Committee, or if not which of the Council's existing Committees should take responsibility for standards matters, and any other relevant matters such as the composition of and terms of reference for that Committee.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – N/A.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A.
- Political – N/A.
- Reputation – N/A.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Nominate two Members of Policy and Finance Committee to take part in the arrangements to recruit the Independent Member.
- 5.2 Refer consideration of the arrangements for Standards to a sub-group of 4 Members with a recommendation either that there should be a separate Standards Committee or in the alternative advise the sub-group which Committee, this Committee considered should best include Standards matters in its terms of reference.

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

For further information please ask for Diane Rice, extension 4418.