

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
<i>DATE</i>	TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2003
<i>TITLE OF REPORT</i>	GENERAL UPDATE
<i>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</i>	Mark Bowen, assistant director, legal and contract services

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report picks up on two outstanding matters – feedback from the standards board for England conference and recruitment of an additional independent member.

2 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- 2.1 The National Conference of the Standards Board for England was held in Birmingham on 9 and 10 June 2003. It was attended by Mike Coulson, the Chair of this committee, Laura Wren, Independent Member, Councillor Mrs. Shaw, Councillor Stephen Kearney and Mark Bowen, the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.2 Members who were attendees will feed back to other members of the committee on key issues, which arose over the two days.

3 RECRUITMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MEMBER

- 3.1 The increase in membership of the committee agreed on 18 March 2003 has been endorsed by full council. The additional parish representative was appointed at the council's annual meeting on 21 May 2003. Therefore, the parish membership has increased from one to two members.
- 3.2 Annual council also endorsed the appointment of an additional independent member of the committee.
- 3.3 The following provisions relate to the appointment of an independent member of the Standards Committee.
- The vacancy must be advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in Medway's area
 - An interested person must submit an application to Medway Council
 - Any person appointed must not within a period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment have been a member or officer of Medway Council

- An applicant cannot be appointed if they are a relative or a close friend of a member or officer of Medway Council
 - The majority of full Council must approve the appointment.
- 3.4 Whilst this Committee can't formally make the appointment, it is appropriate that it makes a recommendation to Council. There are two ways this can be done. Either short-listed candidates can be interviewed by the whole committee or alternatively, representatives of the committee perhaps in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer could conduct the interview, bringing back a recommendation on appointment to the Standards Committee.
- 3.5 If the second course were followed then, it is suggested that the appropriate interviewees should be the Chair and Vice-Chair and Monitoring Officer.
- 3.6 The selection and interview process should be completed in time for reporting to the Standards Committee of 24 September 2003 with the appointment being confirmed by full Council on 23 October 2003.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Chair of the committee and other relevant members give a verbal report on issues arising at the recent Standards Committee Conference.
- 4.2 That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise for the 4th independent member of the Standards Committee in at least one local newspaper.
- 4.3 That the Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer be authorised to short-list and interview the candidate bringing a recommendation to the Standards Committee on 27 September 2003.

5 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The legal implications are set out in the report. There are no direct financial implications.