

Standards Committee Co-Opted Member recruitment update

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1. Summary

- 1.1.** The membership of the Standards Committee comprises 1 elected member from each of the Council's political groups (currently 5 elected Members) with voting rights. The membership of the committee excludes any members of the Executive. In addition to the five elected members from the Council there are 5 co-opted members without voting rights.
- 1.2.** Currently there is one co-opted member vacancy. This report provides an update on the proposed recruitment to that co-opted member vacancy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** To receive the update on the recruitment to the co-opted member vacancy and provide any comments to the Monitoring Officer.

3. Background

- 3.1.** The terms of reference for the Standards Committee states that its membership includes five co-opted members without voting rights. At least three of the co-opted members should be members of a city, town or parish council to provide representation from local councils and Somerset's local communities. There is currently one vacancy for a co-opted member.
- 3.2.** A recruitment pack has been prepared (see Appendix 1) which will be used by the Council's recruitment services and volunteer services to advertise this opportunity to serve on the Standards Committee.
- 3.3.** The Monitoring Officer will manage the recruitment process and convene an interview panel to interview potential candidates. The successful candidate will then be appointed by the Monitoring Officer and reported to the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.4.** The Committee is invited to comment on the proposed recruitment process.

4. Options Considered and Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** The only other option would be not to recruit but that is not in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference and is therefore not recommended.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** Financial – in accordance with the Members' Scheme of Allowances 2024/25 a co-opted member of a council committee receives an annual allowance of £1,000 and can submit claims for travel expenses associated with their role.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** Somerset Council Constitution – Standards Committee Terms of Reference and Members' Scheme of Allowances

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author