

## WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

### ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006

#### Retirement of Chairman of Ethics and Standards Committee

| <b>OPEN</b>                 |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b> | Monitoring Officer     |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>     | C S Newlands ext. 2715 |
| <b>APPENDICES</b>           | None                   |

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. To advise members of the Ethics and Standards Committee about the impending retirement of the Chairman - Mrs Ann McDowell and arrangements to replace her.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1. **The report be noted.**

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. Mrs Ann McDowell has served as an Independent Member on the Ethics and Standards Committee for over four years.
- 3.2. Ann will now be retiring from the Committee and it will be necessary to appoint another Independent Member to replace her.
- 3.3. Independent Members are appointed for a period of four years. There are no formal qualifications required for the position, but a keen interest in public affairs in the District and enthusiasm for promoting high standards of public life are useful.
- 3.4. Persons who would be disqualified from holding the post of independent member are those who have been Members of the District Council during the last five years or people who are relatives or close friends of present Members or Officers of the Council.
- 3.3. The appointment will be advertised in the Kidderminster Shuttle in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- 3.4. The closing date for applications is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006.
- 3.5. The Monitoring Officer will update the Committee verbally on the outcome of the advertisement at its next meeting.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The Council will need to pay for the advertisement of this post. Funds are available within the Monitoring Officer's budget to cover this.

5. **LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires Councils to establish a Standards Committee whose main function is to promote the highest possible standards of conduct by Members and Officers of the Council.
- 5.2. The composition of the Committee requires that at least 25% of the Committee comprises independent members who are appointed for a period of four years. The Committee currently has three Independent Members out of a total of eleven members.

6. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Council needs to ensure that at least 25% of its members are Independent Members.

7. **CONSULTEES**

Chairman and Vice-Chairman

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Government Act 2000 (Section 53)  
The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001