

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th FEBRUARY 2007

Appointment of New Independent Member

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	C S Newlands ext. 2715
APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To update Members of the Ethics and Standards Committee regarding the appointment of a new Independent Member to replace Mrs Ann McDowell.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:

- 2.1. **The appointment of Mrs C A Noons as an Independent Member of the Council's Ethics and Standards Committee be agreed.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At the last meeting of the Ethics and Standards Committee on 30th November 2007, Mrs Ann McDowell announced her intention to retire as Chairman and Independent Member of the Ethics and Standards Committee.

- 3.2. The Monitoring Officer made arrangements to replace Mrs McDowell, having taken into consideration the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001.

- 3.3. In Chapter 3, of the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, regarding Size and Composition of Standards Committees, the legislation states:

"(a) where its standards committee has more than three members, at least 25% are independent members."

- 3.4. Wyre Forest District Council complies with this requirement by having three of its eleven members as Independent Members.

- 3.3. In the legislation it recommends the following for the appointment of an Independent Member:

The appointment is:

- (a) approved by a majority of members of the authority; (*the recommendation is for Council to approve the appointment*).
 - (b) advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the authority. (*An Advertisement was placed in the Kidderminster Shuttle on 1st December 2006*).
 - (c) of a person who has submitted an application to the authority;
 - (d) of a person who has not within the period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment been a member or officer of the authority; and
 - (e) of a person who is not a relative or close friend of a member of the authority."
- 3.4. Two applications were received. One applicant had to withdraw as he was related to an Officer of the authority. Mrs Noons, the other applicant, satisfied all the requirements of the legislation and was appointed on the 15th December 2006, subject to approval by the Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications as a result of this appointment.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Council will be required to formally agree the appointment of the new Independent Member.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues associated with the appointment.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. The appointment of a new Independent Member will restore the balance of 3 independent members for the Committee. This is in accordance with guidance from the Standards Board for England.

9. **Consultees**

Chief Executive

10. **Background Papers**

The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001