

CONDUCT COMMITTEE

3 September 2019

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE TO CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Strategic Aim:	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr o Hemsley, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rutland One Public Estate & Growth, Tourism & Economic Development, Communications, Resources (other than Finance)	
Contact Officer(s):	Jo Morley, Governance Officer	01572 758271 jomorley@rutland.gov.uk
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Ward Councillors	Not applicable	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Agrees to extend the date for receipt of nominations for the parish representative vacancies on the Conduct Committee until the end of October allowing parish and town councils extra time to nominate one of their members, in line with their own meeting schedule. Once approved by the Committee and full Council any appointments will be valid until Annual Council 2023.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Conduct Committee to consider the recruitment process of parish council representatives and to extend the date for receipt of nominations until the end of October 2019.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Conduct Committee is primarily responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members.

- 2.2 Membership of the Committee comprises six County Councillors, two members of separate Parish Councils in Rutland, one of whom shall be a member of a Town Council and one Independent Person, appointed under the Localism Act 2011. Parish Council representatives and the Independent Person are non-voting co-opted members.
- 2.3 At present, the Committee has two vacancies for Parish Councillor representatives, following the resignations of Councillor Adam Lowe of Oakham Town Council and Councillor Simon Aley of Manton Parish Council
- 2.4 If the vacancies continue, the Committee is failing to comply with its Terms of Reference in that it does not have full representation across its membership.
- 2.5 In order to address this, an exercise to appoint to the vacant seats has been undertaken. An invitation to Town and Parish Councillors to express their interest in the vacancies went out with a closing date of 14 August 2019 but only one nomination, which was subsequently withdrawn, was received by the deadline. With the Committee's approval, the deadline for receipt of nominations will now be extended until the end of October. Those who express an interest will be invited to complete an application form and candidates will be shortlisted by the committee for interviews to take place in November.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Consultation with the Conduct Committee and the Parish Councils has been undertaken in order to recruit to these vacancies.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The vacancies could be left unfilled but if this was the case, the Committee would be operating outside of its Terms of Reference and there would be a requirement to amend the Terms of Reference through full Council.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Councillors play a critical role in local life. The people who elect them expect the highest standards of behaviour and all local authorities, must by law, adopt a national code of conduct and a Committee to oversee the behaviour of their councillors and, when necessary, receive complaints. It is important, therefore, that the membership of the Conduct Committee is representative of the different types of local councillors within the unitary authority. The Council has a duty under s27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote high standards of conduct and the Conduct Committee is at the heart of the Council's efforts to fulfil that duty.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed as this report concerns the membership of a Committee. The recruitment process accords with fair practice and there are no adverse impacts on any other body.

8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

9 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no Health and Wellbeing implications arising from this report.

10 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 This report requests that the Conduct Committee agrees to extend the date for receipt of nominations for the parish representative vacancies on the Conduct committee until the end of October in order that a greater number of applications can be received. Extending the deadline allows extra time for parish and town councils to nominate one of their members, following the resumption of meetings after the holiday period. The Conduct Committee is responsible for the oversight of Councillor conduct and it is important, therefore, that the Committee retains full representation across its membership and that parish councillors are encouraged to participate.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 No background papers.

12 APPENDICES

- 12.1 There are no appendices.

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