



## **REPORT of MONITORING OFFICER**

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**to  
COUNCIL  
14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **CONSTITUTION OF THE JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

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

1.1 To re-constitute the Joint Standards Committee (JSC).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That in accordance with the Terms of Reference for JSC eight Members are appointed to the Committee along with the two previously appointed Parish Councillors (non-voting) and the Independent Person (non-voting) in accordance with political balance;
- (ii) That the Vice-Chairperson is not from the same Political Group as the Chairperson.

#### **3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 13 July 2023 the Council disbanded JSC without establishing a new composition. Even though there was no new composition the motion to disapply political balance provisions failed.
- 3.2 The Constitution refers to the establishment of JSC with the general remit of maintaining high ethical standards and assessing investigation reports about member conduct.
- 3.3 Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have a Standards Committee, but no detailed provisions exist in relation to its composition because of the repeal of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.
- 3.4 **APPENDIX A** shows the nominations made by the different political groups in accordance with the political balance legislation. As can be seen there are two appointments without nominations that the Council needs to fill if it follows the recommendations in section 2 above.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Council needs to re-constitute JSC in accordance with legislation.

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

5.1 None.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Maintaining ethical standards.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** –None.

Background Papers: None.

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