

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER (MONITORING OFFICER)

REPORT NO: LEG007

DATE: 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b><u>MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></b>
<b>FORWARD PLAN ITEM:</b>	N/A
<b>DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:</b>	N/A
<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>	N/A

<b>COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	<b>OUNCILLOR PAUL CARPENTER – PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND HOUSING</b>	
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY:</b>	N/A	
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:</b>	N/A	
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:</b>	This report is available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website <a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk">www.southkesteven.gov.uk</a>	
<b>INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Carried out and appended to report?</b>  <b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>Full impact assessment required?</b>  <b>No</b>
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>		

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007, the Council appointed Councillors Farrer, Lovelock and Mrs. Williams as members to the Standards Committee. At the time of appointment, the Council was advised that the requirements for political balance did not apply to this Committee. The Composition of standards committees is governed by the Relevant Authorities ( Standards Committees) Regulations 2001
- 1.2 The appointments were made on the basis of political balance and did not adequately reflect the guidance of the Standards Board for England or the views of the independent Chair of the Standards Committee that representatives on the Committee should be drawn from as many of the political parties making up the membership of the Council as possible to ensure there is a fair and appropriate balance. The Chair of the Standards Committee is clear; it is a matter for members to decide the representatives from this Council

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## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended Council:

- Reconsider the membership of the Standards Committee to take into account the requirement that political balance is not required.
- Confirm the membership as it currently exists, or;
- Confirm the appointment of one member from the Conservative Group and the member from the Independent Group and appoint one nominated member of the Liberal Democratic Group as District Council members of the Standards Committee.

## **3. S.151 OFFICER COMMENTS**

There are no financial implications in this report and the s. 151 officer has no comments to make

## **4. CONTACT OFFICER**

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