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**APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor John Williams, Leader**

**Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to ask Members to approve the appointment of two Parish Councillors to Membership of the Standards Committee.

**Summary**

2. Council previously considered a report entitled ‘Additional Standards Committee Members’ on the 22 May 2008 and approved an increase in the membership of Parish Council Members from 2 Parish Council Members to 3 Parish Council Members.
3. There are currently two vacancies and in order to carry out the decision of Council the Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings was asked to nominate two candidates. At the meeting on 17 June 2008 the Association nominated Parish Councillor Margaret Beadle who is a member of Middleton St. George Parish Council and Parish Councillor Derek Dodwell who is a member and Vice Chairman of Neasham Parish Council.

**Recommendation**

4. Members are asked to approve the appointment of Parish Councillor Margaret Beadle and Parish Councillor Derek Dodwell to be members of the Standards Committee.

**Reason**

5. To enable the Standards Committee to discharge the initial assessment and review functions that it has taken on as a result of the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

## Background Papers

- (i) The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 – No.1085
- (ii) Guidance from the Standards Board ‘ Local Assessment of Complaints’

Luke Swinhoe : Extension 2055

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues in relation to Health and Wellbeing.
Sustainability	There are no issues in relation to Sustainability
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	This report affects all wards equally.
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any particular group.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any change to the Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. Council previously considered a report submitted to Council on 22 May 2008, entitled 'Additional Standards Committee Members' and approved an increase in the membership of Parish Council Members from 2 Parish Council Members to 3 Parish Council Members.
7. Members will recall that the reason for the increase in membership was in response to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which devolved the primary role for overseeing of the Code of Conduct to local Standards Committees.
8. Guidance from the Standards Board for England entitled 'Local Assessment of Complaints' was published on the 2 May 2008 recommended that in dealing with the local assessment and review of complaints relating to parish councils Standards Committees ought have a minimum of three parish council representatives. This is in order to ensure that there is a separate parish council representative available, without a conflict of interest, for the assessment and review sub committees.
9. The Standards Committee currently has two vacancies that need to be filled in order to bring the membership of Parish Council members up to three. The only current Parish Council Member of the Standards Committee is Parish Councillor Valarie Whitby.
10. In order to move forward the decision of Council of 22 May 2008 Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings was asked to nominate suitable candidates. At the meeting on 17 June 2008 the Association nominated two parish councillors, Parish Councillor Margaret Beadle, who is a member of Middleton St. George Parish Council and Parish Councillor Derek Dodwell, who is a member and Vice Chairman of Neasham Parish Council.
11. On appointment by the Council this will mean that the membership of the Standards Committee will be 11, with 3 Independent Members, 5 Borough Council Members and 3 Parish Council Members.