

 Standards Committee 18 April 2016		Agenda Item No. 4
Title	Standards Committee of Warwick District	
For further information about this report please contact	Graham Leach Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer 01926 456114, graham.leach@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	None	
Background Papers	Localism Act 2011	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
The review would impact on all residents equally and would be undertaken by an external party.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	13/4/2016	Chris Elliott
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	13/4/2016	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	13/4/2016	Andrew Jones
Finance	13/4/2016	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		Councillor Andrew Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The report brings forward proposals for a Joint Standards Committee of Warwick District.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That it be noted that all Parish & Town Councils have agreed to join a Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District, with the exception of Radford Semele Parish Council, who have declined, and that Baddesley Clinton Parish Council and Warwick Town Council are due to consider the matter later this year.
- 2.2 That this Council asks all Councils who have agreed to participate in a Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District to pass the following resolution at their Annual meeting in May 2016:

"That this Council supports the continuation of the Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District Council and the proposals for representation of the Parish/Town Councils, that there should be four representatives one representing Warwick Rural East Community Forum area, one representing Warwick Rural West Community Forum Area and two representing the areas covered by the four towns.

The Joint Standards Committee will be responsible for undertaking hearings into the Conduct of Councillors following a report to them by the Monitoring Officer. As set out in the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints about Councillors cases will be determined by Hearing Panels appointed by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee. If necessary, the Committee will also be entitled to issue appropriate sanctions against those Councillors involved."

- 2.3 That this Council asks all Councils who have agreed to participate in the Standards Committee for Warwick District for nominations to the Committee by no later than 31 May 2016. These will be circulated to the relevant Councils on 1 June 2016 for them to vote on by 5.00pm on 5 August 2016.
- 2.4 The Councils, who at this time have not agreed to participate in the Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District, will be notified of this decision.
- 2.5 That this Standards Committee agree to an additional meeting of the Committee on Wednesday 10 August 2016 at 5.00pm to consider the nominations for the Joint Committee and recommend them to Council later that evening.
- 2.6 That at the additional meeting of the Committee on 10 August 2016, officers bring forward any necessary amendments to this Council's constitution for recommendation to Council.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 This Council has always been committed to engaging with Parish and Town Councils and ensuring they are represented, with a vote, on the Standards Committee. Initially, the Council had determined that unless all Parish and Town Council's in Warwick District wanted to be part of the Joint Committee they would not offer a Joint Committee. However, this Committee asked officers to investigate the potential for having a Joint Committee without all Councils participating. This report brings back the proposals to enable this happen.
- 3.2 The Committee should be aware that ongoing dialogue is taking place with Baddesley Clinton Parish Council and Warwick Town Council and, at this stage, officers are confident that they will also join the Joint Standards Committee.
- 3.3 By asking all the Council's to confirm the position through a common resolution at their Annual Meeting, it will provide a clear mandate for the Joint Committee.
- 3.4 The timetable for nominations to the Joint Committee is to enable all Council's to have sufficient time to consider a nomination and vote, recognising that not all Parish Council's meet every month.
- 3.5 With regard to recommendation 2.6, to ensure all Warwick District Councillors are aware of any proposed recommendations from the Standards Committee regarding the Constitution, the main report will be included on their agenda for the evening of 10 August 2016 and the Standards Committee will be asked at its meeting to consider this report and comment upon it to Council.

4. **Policy Framework**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – The report does not impact on the Council's Policy Framework.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – The proposal focuses on a commitment to engage and work with the local community.
- 4.3 **Impact Assessments** – No impact assessments have been undertaken on the proposals within this report

5. **Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 The report does not impact on the Budgetary Framework for the Council or its budget.

6. **Risks**

- 6.1 The most significant risk associated with report are in ensuring that the Parish and Town Council's adopt the same resolution for the Joint Committee and provide the Council evidence of this. This is why officers have proposed a set time frame for agreement to join the Committee and provide nominations.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 Members could take the decision to co-opt Councillors to the Committee but this would remove the ability for them to vote, contrary to a previous decision of Members.
- 7.2. The majority of Parish and Town Councils have already agreed to join the Joint Committee. However, the proposed resolution provides a single point of decision making and common resolution on this matter.
- 7.3 The proposals for appointments to the Joint Committee were previously agreed by the Council and it is not considered appropriate to amend them at this time.