



Report Title: Appointment of Independent Members for Standards Committee

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): N/A

Report of: John Suddaby, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Decision

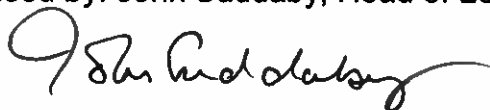
1. Purpose

- 1.1 To make provision for the Council having a full complement of 6 independent members on its Standards Committee for the 2010/11 municipal year.
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution requires the Standards Committee to have five independent members, as agreed by Full Council on 18 January 2010. The report recommends that the Council confirms the appointment of James Darbyshire and Phillip Skinner as independent members following the recruitment process outlined below. The appointments are for a four year period, and the two appointments arise following the increase in Independent Membership from 5 to 6 Members by the Council on 19 January, and also due to a vacancy arising from one of the existing independent members (Roger Lovegrove) term of office coming to end at the commencement of the new Municipal Year 2010/11.
- 1.3 The Council is also asked to extend the term of office of an existing Independent Member - Carol Sykes by a further 1 year to May 2011. Her term of office was due to cease on 24 May 2010 and the reason for the extension is in order to provide continuity in membership of the Independent members of the Committee given her extensive knowledge and understanding of the remit of the Committee.
- 1.4 Independent members to the Standards Committee for the Municipal year 2010/11 will therefore be: Rachael Chambers, Jonathan Batterham, James Darbyshire, Phillip Skinner, Annabel Loyd, and Carol Sykes.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of James Darbyshire and Phillip Skinner to serve as independent members on the Standards Committee from May 2010 for four years.
- 2.2 To extend the term of office of Independent Member Carol Sykes for a further year to May 2011.

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3. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 3.1 Local Government Act 2000
- 3.2 Council's Constitution
- 3.3 Standards Board for England Guidance
- 3.4 Member Services and Legal Services files.

4. Background

4.1 The Standards Committee is required by national legislation to have at least one independent member and also independent members must form 25% of the committee. The rules in relation to political balance do not apply to Standards Committees. Legislation provides that:

- Independent members must not have been a member or employee of Haringey Council within 5 years before the date of appointment.
- Independent members must not be a relative or close friend of a member or employee of Haringey Council
- Independent members must have filled in an application form
- Independent members must have been approved by the majority of the Council's members.
- All meetings of the Standards Committee or sub-committee meetings held, have to have an independent member present as chair in order for the meeting to be quorate.

4.2 This Council's Constitution provides that the Standards Committee is composed of 8 councillors and 6 independent members and that the independent members must not be councillors or officers of the Council or any other body with a Standards Committee.

4.3 On 14 January 2010 the Standards Committee further reviewed the Independent Membership of the Standards Committee and recommended an increase from 5 to 6 Independent Members – this reflected the increasing requirements of Members in attending Assessment/Review Sub—Committees as well as Determination hearings over the previous twelve months. This was confirmed by Full Council on 18 January 2010, and in light of the need to recruit to the vacancy of one of the existing 5 Independent Members (Roger Lovegrove) whose term of office expires on 24 May 2010 a recruitment process was commenced to fill the 2 vacancies. The interviews followed the Council interview procedure and the successful candidates were James Darbyshire and Phillip Skinner. Their appointment is recommended for confirmation by Full Council for a four year term as prescribed in the Council's Constitution, and in accordance with the requirements in the Local Government Act 2000 and the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001.

5. Recommendation

5.1 To approve the appointment of James Darbyshire and Phillip Skinner to serve as independent members on the Standards Committee from May 2010 for four years.

5.2 To extend the term of office of Independent Member Carol Sykes for a further year to May 2011.

6. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

7.1 The legal position is set out in the report.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 Recruitment has taken place in accordance with the Council's policies.