



COUNCIL

On 22 November 2010

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 6 independent members on its Standards Committee, by the filling of an Independent member vacancy from November 2010 for a 4 year term to November 2014, and to appoint to a vacancy which will arise from May 2011 for a 4 year term of office to May 2015. .
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution requires the Standards Committee to have at least one quarter of its membership as independent members, as agreed by Full Council on 18 October 2010. The report recommends that the Council confirms the appointment of Andrea Rabe and Christopher Watts as independent members following the recruitment process outlined below. The appointments are for a four year period, and one appointment is due to the resignation in June 2010 of an independent member appointed in May 2009, and also due to a vacancy which will arise from one of the existing independent members (Carol Sykes) term of office coming to end at the commencement of the new Municipal Year 2011/12.
- 1.3 Independent members to the Standards Committee for the remainder of the 2010/11 will therefore be: Rachael Hatch, James Darbyshire, Phillip Skinner, Annabel Loyd, Carol Sykes, and Andrea Rabe., and from May 2011: Rachael Hatch, James Darbyshire, Phillip Skinner, Annabel Loyd, Andrea Rabe and Christopher Watts.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of Andrea Rabe to serve as independent member on

the Standards Committee from 22 November 2010 for four years to November 2014, and Christopher Watts to serve as independent member on the Standards Committee from 23 May 2011 for four years to May 2015.

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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 councillors and 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 In light of the need to recruit to the vacancy of one of the existing 6 Independent Members who resigned in June 2010 (Jonathan Batterham), and also with the need to appoint to the vacancy that will arise on 23 May 2011 (Carol Sykes) whose term of office expires on 23 May 2011 a recruitment process was commenced to fill the 2 vacancies. The interviews followed the Council interview procedure and the successful candidates were Andrea Rabe and Christopher Watts. Ms Rabe's appointment is from 22 November 2010 effect and for a 4 year term to 21 November 2014, and Mr Watts's appointment is from 23 May 2011 for a four year term. Both appointments are made under the arrangements prescribed in the Council's Constitution, and in accordance with the requirements in the Local Government Act 2000 and The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. The relevant regulations provide that any appointment must be approved by a majority of members of the authority.

5. Recommendation

5.1 To approve the appointment of Andrea Rabe to serve as independent member on the Standards Committee from 22 November 2010 for four years to 21 November 2014, and Christopher Watts to serve as independent member on the Standards Committee from 23 May 2011 for four years to 22 May 2015.

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.

