



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

COUNCIL


On 4 APRIL 2011

Report Title: i. Notification of Standards Committee Hearing Panel Decision – 30 and 31 March 2011

ii. Extension of office of retiring independent member for standards committee from 23 May 2011 to 30 September 2011

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

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


DOROTHY
SIMON

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Council Meeting of decisions taken by the Standards Committee Determination Hearing Panel in response to complaints made against an elected Member of the Council; and
- 1.2 To request Full Council to extend the term of office of a current Independent member of Standards Committee (Carol Sykes) which was due to end on 23 May 2011 to 30 September 2011 in order to cover the maternity absence of Independent Member – Rachel Hatch.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council note these decisions taken by the Hearing Panel as part of the Standards Committee's responsibility to determine complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct made against Members of this Council
- 2.2 To approve the extension the term of office of a current Independent member of Standards Committee (Carol Sykes) which was due to end on 23 May 2011, to 30 September 2011 in order to cover the maternity absence of Independent member – Rachel Hatch .

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

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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 On Wednesday 30 March 2011 and Thursday 31 March 2011, the Standards Committee Determination hearing panel met to consider a complaint against an elected member, Councillor Charles Adje.
- 4.2 At the hearing, the panel found that Councillor Charles Adje had acted in breach of Paragraph 5 of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members conducting himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office as Councillor and the Council into disrepute. The panel suspended Councillor Adje from his office for a period of 4 months from 7 April 2011 to 7 August 2011, and recommended that on his return from suspension, the Councillor undertake training under the supervision of the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative in respect of the Member code of conduct, and the roles of Chairs and Vice-Chairs in relation to council decision making. The findings of the hearing panel have been published in the press as required by law and have been placed on the Council's website and are attached to this report.
- 4.3 In respect of the current independent membership of the Standards Committee the term of office of one of the members – Carol Sykes will cease on 23 May 2011, and this vacancy will be filled by Christopher Watts who was recruited to the position in the autumn of 2010.
- 4.4 In view of a maternity absence of six months of one of the existing Independent Members – Rachel Hatch, and in order to maintain continuity in respect of the Independent Membership of the Standards Committee it is proposed to extend the period of office of the retiring member – Carol Sykes until 30 September 2011 to cover the maternity absence. Ms Sykes has been consulted as to the proposal and has confirmed her agreement to the extension. Full Council is therefore requested to extend the term of office of a current Independent member of Standards

Committee (Carol Sykes) which was due to end on 23 May 2011, to 30 September 2011 in order to cover the maternity absence of Independent member – Rachel Hatch.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the Council note the decisions taken by the Determination Hearing Panel as part of the Standards Committee's responsibility to determine complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct made against Members of this Council

5.2 To approve the extension the term of office of a current Independent member of Standards Committee (Carol Sykes) which was due to end on 23 May 2011, to 30 September 2011 in order to cover the maternity absence of Independent member – Rachel Hatch .

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

