



**Haringey** Council

Agenda item:

**COUNCIL**

**On 19 May 2008**

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 4 independent members on its Standards Committee for the 2008/9 municipal year.
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution requires the Standards Committee to have four independent members. The report recommends to Council that the Council confirms the appointment of Annabel Loyd as independent member following the recruitment process outlined below and that Irene Francis and Roger Lovegrove be confirmed as independent members for a further year until May 2009. Independent members to the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2008/9 will therefore be: Irene Francis, Roger Lovegrove, Carol Sykes and Annabel Loyd.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of Annabel Loyd to serve as an independent member on the Standards Committee from May 2008 for four years.
- 2.2 To extend the term of appointment of Irene Francis and Roger Lovegrove for a further year to May 2009

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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 4 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 At the Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006, Nicholas Weber, Irene Francis and Roger Lovegrove were appointed to serve as independent members on the Standards Committee from May 2006 for two years. At the Council meeting of 22 May 2006, Carol Sykes was appointed as an independent member for four years until May 2010.

4.4 At the Standards Committee of 8 October 2007, it was agreed that to preserve continuity in the face of significant change in standards administration, two out of the three independent members whose term of office was expiring in May 2008

should be retained for a further year and that the resulting vacancy should be advertised.

4.5 On receipt of Nicholas Weber's resignation, the Standards Committee of 7 February 2008 agreed to start the recruitment process for the vacancy and confirmed that subject to approval by full Council, Irene Francis and Roger Lovegrove should remain independent members for a further year's office.

4.6 The advertisement to recruit independent members was placed in Local Haringey newspapers, on the Council website and in Haringey People.

4.7 31 completed application forms were received for the position and a shortlist of four candidates was selected by members of the Standards Committee for final interview. The interviews followed the Council interview procedure and the successful candidate was Annabel Lloyd.

## **5. Recommendation**

5.1 To approve the appointment of Annabel Lloyd to serve as an independent member on the Standards Committee from May 2008 for four years.

5.2 To approve the extension for a further year of the term of office of independent member of Irene Francis and Roger Lovegrove.

## **6. Comments of the Director of Finance**

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.