



COUNCIL

On 18 May 2009

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 5 independent members on its Standards Committee for the 2009/10 municipal year.
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution requires the Standards Committee to have five independent members, as agreed by Full Council on 19 January 2009. The report recommends that the Council confirms the appointment of Rachael Chambers and Jonathan Batterham 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 4 to 5 Members by the Council on 19 January, and also due to a vacancy arising from one of the existing independent members (Irene Francis) term of office coming to end at the commencement of the new Municipal Year 2009/10.
- 1.3 The Council is also asked to extend the term of office of an existing Independent Member - Roger Lovegrove by a further 1 year to May 2010. His term of office was due to cease on 18 May 2009 and the reason for the extension is in order to provide continuity in membership of the Independent members of the Committee given his extensive knowledge and understanding of the remit of the Committee.
- 1.4 Independent members to the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2009/10 will therefore be: Rachael Chambers, Jonathan Batterham, Roger Lovegrove, Annabel Loyd, and Carol Sykes.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of Rachael Chambers and Jonathan Batterham to serve as independent members on the Standards Committee from May 2009 for four years.
- 2.2 To extend the term of office of Independent Member Roger Lovegrove for a further year to May 2010.

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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 5 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 9th 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. As a result of the recruitment process Annabel Loyd was appointed by Full Council on 19 May 2008 for a 4 year term.
- 4.7 Following the decision of the Standards Committee of 22 December 2008 to increase the Independent Membership of the Standards Committee by 1 additional Independent Member, which was confirmed by Full Council on 19 January 2009, and in light of the need to recruit to the vacancy of one of the existing 4 Independent Members (Irene Francis) whose term of office expires on 18 May 2009 a recruitment process was commenced in February 2009. 27 completed application forms were received for the 2 positions and a shortlist of 6 candidates was selected by members of the Standards Committee for final interview. The interviews followed the Council interview procedure and the successful candidates were Rachael Chambers and Jonathan Batterham.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 To approve the appointment of Rachael Chambers and Jonathan Batterham to serve as independent members on the Standards Committee from May 2009 for four years.
- 5.2 To extend the term of office of Independent Member Roger Lovegrove for a further year to May 2010.

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.