

Council – 8th November 2010

Appointment of independent member to Standards Committee

1. Summary of report

This report seeks approval to the appointment of an independent member to the Standards Committee due to the resignation of Dr. Kay Biscomb.

2. Recommendation

That Mr. Mohinder Singh be appointed as an independent member to the Standards Committee for a period of three years until the end of the municipal year 2013/14.

3. Resource and legal considerations

Independent members are entitled to reasonable out of pocket expenses such as travelling/subsistence/other related expenses. These are difficult to quantify in advance and will be dependent on the Committee's level of activity during an independent member's period of office. It is anticipated that these costs will be met from existing corporate budgets.

4. Equality implications

When independent members are recruited, regard is taken to the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and best practice in recruitment and selection and these procedures have been observed in this appointment.

Independent members are bound by the Members' Code of Conduct and as such are required to promote equality. The independent members understand that they cannot unlawfully discriminate against any person and will treat people with respect regardless of their race, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

5. Background

The Local Government Act 2000 and regulations thereunder require each authority to establish a Standards Committee of which 25% of that membership must comprise independent members. The Committee currently consists of four elected members and six independent members.

6. **The recruitment process**

The recruitment of independent members to the Committee follows publication of a public advertisement in the local press.

Appointments can only be made if they are approved by a majority of the members of the authority and are not related to or a close friend of any Councillor or officer of the authority. Further they cannot have been a member or officer of the authority in the preceding five years.

To ensure continuity and retention of service, the Standards Committee have agreed a system of "retirement by rotation" for their independent members. This means that two of the longest serving members of the six retire each year. Therefore it is recommended that the appointment to the Standards Committee be for a period of 3 years or until the end of the municipal year 2013/14.

Signed:

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rory Borealis'.

Rory Borealis
Executive Director (Resources)

Date: 28 October 2010