



Standards Committee - 12 July 2010

Review of process for the appointment of independent members

1. Summary of report

To set out details of a review of the process for the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee and to recommend to Council accordingly.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the proposals contained in this report for the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee be approved.

2.2 To recommend to Council

That the revised procedure for the appointment of independent members of the Standards Committee be adopted.

3. Background information

3.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires all local authorities to have a Standards Committee. This is set out in statute and the Council's Constitution.

3.2 One of the main points of the regulations are that 25% of Committee members should be individual independent members where the Committee has more than three members and that the appointment of independent members should follow a public advertisement.

3.3. At the present moment the Committee has 6 independent members who are appointed on a staggered 3 year basis. The appointments are approved by a majority of the members of the authority. Over the last few years public advertisements have been placed in both the local press and Walsall Pride if publication dates allow. The advertisement has also featured in the Council's job shop publication, the jobs website and a "mail shot" sent to the Community Empowerment Network.

- 3.4 There is no statutory period of office for independent members, however, when the Committee was established it was agreed that independent members would serve for a 3 year period.
- 3.5 Over the last three years the Council has received no new applications for membership. The only ones received have been from existing independent members re-applying at the end of their term office.
- 3.6 The Committee is now asked to cease the 3 year period of office and only advertise when there is a vacancy. This will save the costs involved and also bearing in mind that current members continuing to serve on the Committee to bring a wealth of experience to proceedings.
- 3.7 At the end of each municipal year retiring members would be asked to renew their appointment by indicating to the Standards Committee their willingness to continue as an independent member and for the Standards Committee to recommend the appointment to the Council.

4. **Legal implications**

There is no legislative requirement to advertise for independent members of the Standards Committee.

5. **Financial implications**

None arising from this report

Background papers

All published

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Date: 2 July 2010



Signed:

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Date: 5 July 2010