



Standards Committee

24 January 2011

Appointment of Independent Members to Standards Committee

Summary of Report

This report advises of amendments to the recruitment process for Independent Members to Standards Committee.

Recommendations

- (1) That the content of the report be noted;
- (2) That the Standards Committee support re-election of Ms McLeod and Mr Wood as Independent Members;
- (3) That the Assistant Director Legal & Constitutional Services and Monitoring Officer submit a report to Annual Council in May recommending re-appointment of Ms McLeod and Mr Wood as Independent Members to Standards Committee.

Resource Considerations:

Financial:

None arising from this report

Legal:

None arising from this report

Staffing:

None arising from this report

Citizen Impact:

None arising from this report

Community Safety:

None arising from this report

Environmental:

None arising from this report

Performance and Risk Management:

Risk:

None arising from this report

Performance Management:

None arising from this report

Equality Implications:

This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity

Consultation:

None arising from this report

Background papers

All published

Signed:



Bhupinder Gill
**Assistant Director Legal &
Constitutional Services and Monitoring
Officer**

Date: 10 January 2011

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Currently the Local Government Act, 2000 requires all local authorities to have a Standards Committee. The role of the Committee is set out in statute and the Council's Constitution. It includes, in relation to other matters:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-optees of the authority.
- Assisting members and co-optees to observe the Code of Conduct.
- Dealing with complaints of breaches of the Member's Code of Conduct referred to the Monitoring Officer by the Standards Board for England.

The Secretary of State has issued secondary legislation governing appointments and procedures of Standards Committees and its composition with the main points of the regulations being:

- 25% of Committee member's should be individual independent members (where the Committee has more than three members).
- Appointment of independent members should follow a public advertisement.
- Appointment of individual independent members should be approved by a majority of the members of the authority.
- An independent member should not be related to or be a close friend of any Councillor or officer of the authority.
- An independent member must not have been a member or officer of the authority in the proceeding five years.
- Following the implementation of the new political management structure no more than one member of the Standards Committee will be able to be a member of the executive.
- Standards Committees must operate under the same procedures as other Committees.

In addition to statutory requirements, the Council's Constitution provides for our Standards Committee to have six independent members who are not Councillor's or an officer of the Council or any other body who has a Standards Committee.

Currently the period of office of two existing independent members, Ms K McLeod and Mr A Wood is due to expire at the end of the current municipal year (2010/11).

Following the publication of changes planned for Standards Committees in the Localism Bill, it is proposed that nominations will no longer be sought for Independent Members to Standards Committee with membership of Committee staying as it is for the foreseeable future .

It is therefore proposed that Annual Council in May be requested to approve re-election of Ms McLeod and Mr Wood unless the Monitoring Officer is advised that they have decided to withdraw their nomination for office in the meantime.