



AGENDA ITEM: 19

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
10 February 2010**

COUNCIL: 24 February 2010

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

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SUBJECT: STANDARDS COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To appoint Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2.1 That the recommendation of the Recruitment of Independent Members Panel held on 14 January 2010, as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report, be endorsed.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

3.1 That the following candidates be appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the term of office stated:

A. Mr Peter Rogan with effect from 25 February 2010 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2014.

B. Mr Stuart Ibbs and Mr Ben Winstanley with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2010 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2014.

3.2 That Prof. Roy Chester and Dr Peter Hayman be thanked for their service on the Standards Committee.

4.0 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

4.1 The Council appoints 5 Independent members to its Standards Committee, using a statutory procedure. Current terms of office and details of when members were first appointed are as follows:

Appointed until Annual Meeting in:

Mr John Cailes (Chairman)	2012
Mr Paul Hanmer (Vice-Chairman)	2011
Prof. Roy Chester	2010
Dr. Peter Hayman	2010
Vacancy	

- 4.2 The Term of office for Independent Members, Prof Roy Chester and Dr Peter Hayman are due to expire at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2010. A vacancy has also arisen following the resignation of Mr Robert Patterson on 28 October 2009.

5.0 RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 5.1 The recruitment process started in October 2009 when an advert was placed in the newspaper. Seven application forms were received and these were shortlisted to three Candidates at a meeting of the Appointment of Independent Members Panel in December 2009. The Panel consisted of 3 Independent Members, Mr J Cailes, Mr P Hanmer and Dr P Hayman. The three candidates were interviewed at a meeting of the Panel in January 2010 which decided:

“That Council be recommended to appoint the following candidates as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the term of office stated:

- A. Mr Peter Rogan with effect from 25 February 2010 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2014.
- B. Mr Stuart Ibbs and Mr Ben Winstanley with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2010 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2014.”

- 5.2 The Standards Committee previously agreed that, it would be helpful to start the recruitment process early, with a view to Council making the appointments in February to take effect from May 2010. This would enable training and mentoring to take place between February and May so that new Independent Members could take up their roles effectively in the new municipal year when the relevant terms of office of the two existing Independent Members expired.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 Promotion of high ethical standards at a local level assists in demonstrating that the Council is an ethical organisation.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Allowances are paid to the following Independent Members of the Standards Committee in recognition of their respective roles and are covered in existing budgets as follows:

Chairman	£600 per annum
Vice Chairman	£400 per annum

Independent Member

£200 per annum

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no significant management risks arising from this report as the statutory processes and guidelines for the recruitment of Independent Members have been followed. Independent Members are required to enable the Council's legal obligations under the Standards regime to be met.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

None.