



AGENDA ITEM: 11

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
30 November 2010**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

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SUBJECT: REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise in respect of the reappointment of an Independent Member, in light of the uncertain future of the standards framework.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That, in light of the uncertain future of the standards framework, Mr Paul Hanmer's term of office be extended to May 2012, in accordance with the advice received from Standards for England.

3.0 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

3.1 The Council appoints 5 Independent members to its Standards Committee, using a statutory procedure. Current expiry of terms of office are as follows:

	Appointed until Annual Meeting in:
Mr John Cailles (Chairman)	2012
Mr Paul Hanmer (Vice-Chairman)	2011
Mr Stuart Ibbs	2014
Mr Peter Rogan	2014
Mr Ben Winstanley	2014

3.2 The Term of office for Independent Member Mr Paul Hanmer is due to expire at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2011 and he has served the recommended maximum two terms of four years on the Standards Committee.

4.0 RECRUITMENT PROCESS

4.1 The recruitment process usually starts four months prior to the appointment when an advert is placed in the newspaper. This allows enough time to receive applications, shortlist potential candidates at a meeting of the Appointment of Independent Members Panel and then later interview at a meeting of the Panel and bring forward a recommendation to the Standards Committee and Council.

5.0 GUIDANCE FROM STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND

5.1 As referred to in Agenda Item 7 'The Current Position on the Standards Regime', there is an uncertain future for the standards framework. Standards for England has recently advised that, as long as the original appointment of an Independent Member was carried out in accordance with all the correct legal requirements at the time (e.g. approved by full council, after being openly advertised and having assessed the suitability of all the applications) an authority can extend the term previously recommended for a further period.

5.2 Mr Paul Hanmer was previously appointed in 2003 in accordance with all the correct legal requirements. It is therefore proposed that Mr Hanmer's term of office be extended for a year.

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 were paid to Independent Members of the Standards Committee in recognition of their respective roles in 2009/10 as follows:

Chairman	£1000 per annum
Vice Chairman	£600 per annum
Independent Member	£250 per annum

7.2 The costs are covered in existing budgets. This will be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel, in light of the current workload.

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.
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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.