

## Standards Committee

### AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE – INDEPENDENT MEMBER RECRUITMENT</b>
---------------------	---

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 December 2010
<b>Directorate:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 To inform the Standards Committee about the progress of the recruitment of a new Independent member to replace a retiring Independent member.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members resolve to recommend to Full Council in January 2011 the appointment of Zillah Turner who successfully completed the selection process in response to the authority's advertised request to receive applications to fill the vacancy left by a member retiring at the end of November 2010.

### 3. Report Background

#### 3.1 The recruitment of an Independent Member.

- 3.2 During the Autumn the Council undertook a recruitment exercise to appoint an independent member in view of the pending retirement of an independent member.
- 3.3 On November 22 2010 the Council interviewed the 8 applicants who responded to the recruitment process.
- 3.4 There were many candidates who impressed the interview panel and the decision proved to be an extremely difficult choice. The Chair considered that, of all the candidates, Zillah Turner demonstrated the greatest enthusiasm to undertake meaningful public voluntary service. She was also able to show experience of working at middle/senior levels within the public health sector, with apparent good networking skills. It was also thought that, as the Standards Committee is anxious to engage with schools, universities, youth groups and similar organisations in order to encourage young citizens to partake in and understand relevant activities, Zillah is likely to relate well across age and experience boundaries.

- 3.5 In the light of the impending retirement of one of independent members the Borough Solicitor recommends that subject to suitability one appointment be made from the 8 candidates who have applied.
- 3.6 The Committee is reminded that until the new legislation abolishing the Standards regime is in place, the local standards framework still exists and standards committees and monitoring officers have an obligation to keep the system operating. By the appointment of a new independent member this will ensure the Standards Committee remains compliant with the statutory requirements.

#### **4.Implications (including financial implications)**

##### **4.1 Resources and Risk**

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance and those using the service and where such implications are material they have been described in the body of this report.

##### **4.2 Legal**

None other than those mentioned in the body of the report. Standards Committee is the appropriate body to consider the matters set out in this report.

##### **4.3 Other Implications**

- 4.3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service and where such implications are material; they have been described in the text of the report.
- 4.3.2 As one third of the membership of Standards Committee must, under the Council's constitution, be Independent Members, the Chair proposes that Standards Committee recommend to Full Council the appointment of candidate selected by the recruitment process otherwise there is a significant risk to Standards Committee and the Council to the extent that the committee might be unable to function effectively due to insufficient Independent Membership.
- 4.3.3 Continued vacancies amongst Independent Members may reduce public confidence in Standards Committee.

#### **5. Background Papers**

Advert and applications records held by the Borough Solicitor.

**Report Author and Title:** Nikolas Jacob, solicitor on behalf of Francis Fernandes, Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer Northampton Borough Council

**Telephone and Email:** 01604 837735 and [njacob@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:njacob@northampton.gov.uk)