

Standards Committee

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Report Title	STANDARDS COMMITTEE – INDEPENDENT MEMBER RECRUITMENT
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Date of Meeting:	18 October 2010
Directorate:	Chief Executive
Ward(s)	All

1. Summary

- 1.1 To inform the Standards Committee about the passing of a resolution at Full Council on 17 January 2011 confirming that, with immediate effect, Zillah Turner be appointed as the new Independent Member on the Standards Committee to replace the retiring Independent member.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the passing of the resolution.

3. Report Background

3.1 The recruitment of an Independent Member.

- 3.2 Towards the end of last year the Council undertook a recruitment exercise to appoint a new independent member in view of the pending retirement of an independent member.

- 3.3 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.

- 3.4 The meeting of Full Council on 17 January 2011 received a report confirming that the Chair of Standards Committee and the Borough Solicitor considered that, for the reasons stated in the report, Zillah Turner was the most suitable of all the candidates. Accordingly Full Council resolved that, with immediate effect, Zillah Turner be appointed as the new Independent Member on this council's Standards Committee.

- 3.5 In view of the Local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 all the unsuccessful candidates thought suitable but not actually appointed have been kept in a 'pool' for future consideration.

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 difficulty in recruiting to the role presents 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. This risk can be mitigated by a focused campaign amongst underrepresented groups.
- 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.

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