

REPORT FOR RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE: Constitutional and Nomination Committee

DATE: 18 May 2010

SUBJECT: Terms of Appointment of Independent Members of the Standards Committee

REPORT OF: The City Solicitor

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To propose that changes to the terms of appointment of the Standards Committee's independent members are implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To note the position as to the terms for the period of office of the current independent members of the Standards Committee.
2. To note the guidance of Standards for England as to terms for the period of office of independent members of standards committees.
3. That the Committee recommend that new appointments are made in accordance with the guidance produced by Standards for England.
4. That, as a transitional arrangement, the terms of office of the existing independent members of Standards Committee are extended by one year and limits imposed on their further membership of the Standards Committee.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR REVENUE BUDGET: None

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR CAPITAL BUDGET: None

WARDS AFFECTED: All

IMPLICATIONS FOR:

Antipoverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	No	No	No

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2009.
Standards Board Guidance – The Role and Make-up of Standards Committees

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Background

1. The current terms for the period of office of independent members are staggered 2 or 3 year terms, with a maximum of two terms or 6 years in total whichever is the lesser. The history of the appointments of the current independent members of the Committee is as follows:
 - Elizabeth Carmichael – originally appointed on 12 July 2006 for a term expiring 13 May 2008, extended until 9 July 2008 and reappointed 9 July 2008 for a period of 3 years.
 - Amanda Isles – appointed on 9 July 2008 for a period of 2 years.
 - John Andrew Snadden – originally appointed on 17 May 2006 for a term expiring on 13 May 2008, extended until 9 July 2008 and reappointed on 9 July 2008 for a period of 3 years.
2. The guidance issued by Standards for England (the current branding of the Standards Board for England) recommends that:
 - No independent member should serve for more than two terms.
 - The length of such terms should be 4 years.
 - Therefore, no independent member should serve for more than a total of 8 years.
3. Although the Council must take account of Standards for England's guidance, it is not bound by it. Nonetheless, it is considered that the guidance should provide the basis for the periods of office of new members of the Standards Committee, with transitional arrangements for the current independent members.

Newly appointment independent members of the Standards Committee

4. The Committee is asked to recommend that in relation to newly appointed independent members of the Standards Committee, that the limitations on their terms of office should be as recommended by Standards for England and set out at paragraph 2.

Transitional arrangements for current independent members of the Standards Committee

5. In relation to the existing independent members, the Committee is asked to recommend that the periods of office of the current independent members be

extended by one year in each case – i.e. to 9 July 2012 in the case of John Andrew Snadden and Elizabeth Carmichael, and to 9 July 2011 in the case of Amanda Isles.

6. It should be noted that at the end of their (extended) terms John Andrew Snadden and Elizabeth Carmichael will not be entitled to stand again under the new arrangements. However, at the end of her (extended) term, Amanda Isles will be entitled to apply for one further term of no more than four years in length.