

**MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
REPORT FOR RESOLUTION**

COMMITTEE: Standards Committee

DATE: 10 March 2008

SUBJECT: Independent Members of the Standards Committee

REPORT OF: The City Solicitor

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To note the arrangements for the appointment of independent members.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To note the contents of this report.

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

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Local Government Act 2000
Local Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001
Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) order 2007
Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Background

1. The Local Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 provide for the size and make-up of standards committees, and for the appointment of parish and independent members. Authorities are required to have at least three members on their standards committee and at least one of which must be an independent member. If there are more than three members on the standards committee at least 25% of the members must be independent.
2. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires all standards committees to have an independent chair as from 1 April 2008.

Current Independent Members

3. The terms of office of the Standard Committee's two current independent members, Elizabeth Carmichael and John Andrew Snadden will expire on 14 May and 16 May 2008 respectively.

Appointment of Independent Members

4. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 ("the Regulations"), an advert must be placed in one or more local newspapers circulating in the authority's area inviting members of the public to apply for the position of independent member of the Council's Standards Committee. The City Solicitor will make arrangements for this.
5. All applications are then considered by a selection panel set up for that purpose who will make recommendations regarding the appointment. The size, composition and rules under which the panel should operate are left to Local Authorities to determine. The City Solicitor will request that the Constitutional and Nominations Committee appoint a panel comprising the Lord Mayor, two elected members (one majority party and one minority party) and the City Solicitor or her nominee to consider the applications received and to make recommendations to the Constitutional and Nominations Committee in relation to the appointments to be made. The Standards Committee is asked to put forward nominations as to which elected members should be recommended for appointment to the panel.
6. The Regulations also provide that a person shall be disqualified from being an independent Member if within the period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment he or she has been a Member or Officer of the Authority or is a relative or a close friend of a Member or Officer of the Authority.
7. The principles settled by the Standards Committee are that independent members serve for a maximum of two terms or six years whichever is the lesser.
8. Any appointment of an independent member of the Standards Committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the City Council.