

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Standards Committee - 16 November 2009
Subject: Independent Members' Terms of Office
Report of: The City Solicitor

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform the Standards Committee that changes to the terms of appointment of the Standards Committee's independent members are being explored.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For the Standards Committee to note the 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

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 possibility is being explored of amending the terms of appointment of independent members of the Committee, to take account the guidance issued by Standards for England (formerly the Standards Board for England).
2. 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 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.
3. The guidance issued by Standards 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.

It should be noted that although the Council must take account of Standard's for England's guidance, it is not bound by it.

Issues to be Addressed by Changes to Terms of Appointment

4. The two primary issues that will need to be addressed by any changes that are introduced to terms of appointment of independent members are:
 - What terms of appointment to introduce for independent members that are appointed to the Committee in the future.
 - What transitional arrangements, if any, to introduce in relation to the terms of appointment of the existing independent members of the Committee.
5. The Committee is asked to note the above.