
**Manchester City Council
Report For Resolution**

Report To: Standards Committee – 27 June 2011
Subject: Terms of Appointment of Independent Members
Report of: The City Solicitor

Purpose of the Report:

To propose that the Committee request the reappointment of Amanda Isles as an independent member of the Committee for the period of one year.

Recommendations:

1. To note that Amanda Isles term as an independent member of the Standards Committee expires on 9 July 2011.
 2. To request that the Constitutional and Nomination Committee recommend to Council the extension of Amanda Isles appointment as an independent member of the Standards Committee until 9 July 2012.
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Financial Consequences for Revenue Budget:

None.

Financial Consequences for the Capital Budget:

None.

Wards Affected:

All.

Implications for:

Antipoverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	No	No	No

Contact Officers:

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Background Documents:

- The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2009.
- Standards Board Guidance – “The Role and Make-up of Standards Committees.”
- Clauses 15-21 (inclusive) and Schedule 4 of the Localism Bill (as brought from the House of Commons to the House of Lords on 23 May 2011).
- “Abolition of the Standards Board Regime”, guidance note produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government, December 2010.

Background

1. As has been reported to the Committee previously, the Localism Bill currently before Parliament provides for the abolition of the Standards Board regime. While the Bill provides for the adoption of a voluntary code of conduct, at the present time it remains uncertain what the future role of standards committees would be in respect of such a code.
2. Following the enactment of the Localism Bill, the provisions that deal with the abolition of the current Standards Regime would be brought into force on a day to be appointed by the Secretary of State by way of order. Until that time the current statutory framework would remain operative, with the Committee undertaking its existing role in respect of the local assessment and determination of allegation of breach of the Code of Conduct by members. The Committee would also have a specific role under the transitional arrangements provided for in the Bill, involving the hearing of any complaints remaining outstanding when the abolition provisions are brought into force.

Terms of Independent Members

3. Given the above it is important that the Committee retains a sufficient number of independent members to enable it to exercise its functions during the pre-enactment and transitional periods. The history of the appointments of the current independent members of the Committee is as follows:
 - Elizabeth Carmichael was originally appointed on 12 July 2006 for a term expiring 13 May 2008, which was extended until 9 July 2008. She was reappointed on 9 July 2008 until 9 July 2011, with this being extended on 18 May 2010 until 9 July 2012.
 - Amanda Isles was appointed on 9 July 2008 for a term expiring on 9 July 2010, with this being extended on 18 May 2010 until 9 July 2011.
 - John Andrew Snadden was originally appointed on 17 May 2006 for a term expiring on 13 May 2008, which was extended until 9 July 2008. He was reappointed on 9 July 2008 until 9 July 2011, with this being extended on 18 May 2010 until 9 July 2012.
4. The Committee is asked to note that Amanda Isles term will expire shortly. It is recommended that the Committee request that the Constitutional and Nomination Committee to recommend to Council that her appointment be extended. To align her appointment with those of the two other independent members, an extension until 9 July 2012 is suggested. It is expected that this would ensure that the terms of all independent members would cover the pre-enactment and transitional periods in respect of the changes to the standards regime.