

REPORT TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE 9 MARCH 2009

**REPORT BY: MICHAEL LAWTHORP, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR and
CITY SOLICITOR**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT STANDING
DEPUTIES FOR THE COMMITTEE**

1 Purpose of the Report

To note the present position with regard to the recruitment of a proposed Independent Standing Deputy for the Committee.

2 Recommendation

To agree the appointment of two Independent Standing Deputies for the Committee and the positions to be offered to the two candidates who were selected by the panel on the 13 January 2009, subject to the approval of Council with regard to the creation of an additional Independent Standing Deputy position.

3 Background

As a result of the Independent Member, Mervyn Cowdrey's extended leave of absence, due to work commitments, it was decided that it would help the future smooth running of the Committee if an Independent Standing Deputy was appointed to attend at the Committee, in the event that one of the Independent Members was unable to be present.

As a consequence, an advert was placed in the local press and subsequently 5 responses were received. All of those who applied were interviewed by a panel on 13 January 2009. The panel consisted of two Independent Members, supported by the Monitoring Officer and an Officer from Democratic and Community Engagement. It was the unanimous view of the panel that, if the Standards Committee agreed, two Independent Standing Deputies, rather than one, should be appointed. It was felt that this could, at some date in the future, be beneficial to the Committee in ensuring at all times that a good pool of Independent Standing Deputies would be available. It was also felt that it might be helpful in developing a wider understanding of the role of the Committee amongst potential future "full" Independent Members.

Both potential Independent Standing Deputies have been advised that this report will be presented to Committee and both have indicated their continued interest in the role. The candidates have been made aware of the limitations which would be placed upon them in that they would only be invited to attend in the event that one of the existing Independent Standing Deputies was unable to attend. If this proposal is acceptable to Members it would appear to have a number of benefits to the Committee, both in developing increased interest and knowledge in its work and also ensuring at all times a pool of available Independent Standing Deputies being available for the Committee's business.

4 Conclusion

The Committee is asked to agree the appointment of two Independent Standing Deputies and to recommend to Council that the Committee's membership is enlarged to allow for this additional position.

5. Equality Impact

This report has undergone an effective Equality Impact Assessment.

Michael Lawther
Strategic Director and City Solicitor

Background list of Documents

Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The City Solicitor's Files of papers in relation to the appointment of Independent Standing Deputies for the Standards Committee.

The recommendations set out above were
approved/approved as amended/deferred/rejected
by the Committee on 9 March 2009

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