

Agenda Item No: 4
Report To: Selection & Constitutional Review Committee



Date: 4th May 2010

Report Title: Independent Members Of The Standards Committee – Extension Of Terms Of Appointment

Report Author: Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Summary:	To seek agreement to extend the terms of appointment of the Independent Members of the Standards Committee to 1st May 2014.
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Key Decision: NO – Full Council Function

Affected Wards: N/A

Recommendations: To recommend to the Full Council on the 13th May 2010 that the terms of appointment for the Independent Members of the Standards Committee, namely Mrs Carol Vant, Mr Mike Sharpe and Mr John Dowsey, be extended to the 1st May 2014.

Policy Overview: To ensure that Independent Members are appointed to the Standards Committee. One Independent Member is required to be present at each meeting of the Standards Committee.

Financial Implications: N/A

Other Material Implications: N/A

Exemption Clauses: N/A

Background Papers: Nil

Contacts: danny.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk – Tel: 01233 330349

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Issue to be Decided

1. To consider extending the terms of appointment of the Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

Background

2. Pursuant to Minute Nos. 645/5/06, 146/7/06 and 52/6/08 Mrs Carol Vant, Mr Mike Sharpe and Mr John Dowsey were appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the 1st May 2010. Each Member was interviewed by the Independent Members Interview Panel, which recommended their appointment to Full Council.

The three Independent Members have indicated that they would be willing to serve a further term, therefore it is suggested that the appointees' period of appointment be extended for a further four year period until the 1st May 2014. It is the view of the Monitoring Officer that he would like to, where possible, re-appoint Independent Members to retain knowledge, expertise and experience and this is also in recognition of the positive contribution of the existing Members.

Consideration

3. An Independent Member is required to be present at each meeting of the Standards Committee and its Panels and under the latest regulations an Independent Member has to Chair Panels dealing with assessment of complaints. Therefore it is important that a full complement of three Independent Members is retained. To go through another recruitment and selection process at this time when the Council has the opportunity to retain the three existing Members seems unnecessary. The Standards Committee has met fairly infrequently over the last 4 years, but the existing Members have had particularly specialist training in dealing with Code of Conduct complaints and local referrals. Given the infrequency of Standards Committee meetings/hearings it is considered that extended service would not affect the impartiality of the Independent Members.

Handling

4. Subject to Council agreeing to extend the terms of appointment, the Independent Members will be advised accordingly.

Conclusion

5. That it be recommended to the Full Council on the 13th May 2010 that the terms of appointment for the Independent Members of the Standards Committee, namely Mrs Carol Vant, Mr Mike Sharpe and Mr John Dowsey, be extended to the 1st May 2014.

Portfolio Holder's Views

6. Not applicable as the appointment of Independent Members to Standards Committees is a whole Council function.

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