

**3. APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (A.1148/EWJ)**

**Proposal**

1 This report requests the meeting to appointment 4 Authority Members to the Standards Committee and to re-appoint Mr Robert Ashworth as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a further term.

**2 RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **That 2 Council Members and 2 Secretary of State Members be appointed to the Standards Committee.**

2. **That, in pursuance of S53 Local Government Act 2000 and The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, Robert Ashworth be re-appointed as an Independent Member of the Authority's Standards Committee for a period of four years expiring on 28 August 2011.**

2. **That attendances at all meetings be an approved duty under the Members' Allowances Scheme.**

**Policy/Legal Background**

3 The composition of Standards Committees is governed by The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001.

4 Regulations under the Act prescribe that at least 25% of the membership shall not be Members of the Authority. The agreed membership of the Standards Committee is 6 members including two Independent Members.

5 The members appointed last year were:

Council Members: 2

Secretary of State Members: 2

Clr Mrs J Bevan  
Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe

Mr N Bajaria  
Mr J C Fearn

Independent Members: 2 Mr R Ashworth & Mrs J Carr

**Key Issues**

6 Mr Ashworth was appointed as an Independent Member for a period of four years at the Authority Meeting in July 2003. The current appointment expires on 28<sup>th</sup> August Mr Ashworth is a Solicitor from Cheshire, a partner in a legal practice in Manchester and has extensive experience of working with local authorities and other public sector organisations. He has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee. He is willing to continue for a further term. The appointment of Mrs Carr the other Independent Member expires in April 2010.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Background**

- 1 The Standards Committee is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act 2000. The terms of reference are to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members by assisting observation of the Authority's Code of Conduct and advising the Authority on the adoption of a new Code of Conduct, monitoring the Code and advising and training members on matters relevant to the Code. The Committee has powers to determine complaints against a Member that have been investigated by the Standards Board or investigated locally.
- 2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill includes proposals to extend the function of the Committee probably from April next year. Complaints against Members will be made direct to the Authority with the Committee having powers to consider the complaint and decide whether or not to carry out an investigation at local level. The Committee will also have powers to determine appeals by staff against a decision of the Authority to designate a post as a politically restricted post. The Committee will have to be chaired by one of the Independent members.

### **Resources**

- 3 The Independent Members are paid a Co-optees allowance of £531 per annum together with travel and subsistence allowances. These payments are provided for in the Members' Allowances budget.

### **Risk Management**

- 4 There are no risks arising out of the proposals.

### **Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety**

- 5 There are no issues arising out of the proposal.

### **Consultees**

- 6 The Chair of the Standards Committee has been consulted and supports the re-appointment of the Independent Member.

### **Enclosures**

- 7 None.

### **List of Background Papers** (not previously published)

- 8 None.

### **Report Author**

- 9 Eugene Judge, Democratic Services Manager.

### **Publication date**

- 10 Thursday 28 June 2007