

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

Proposal

1. This report requests the meeting to appoint an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That, in pursuance of S53 Local Government Act 2000 and The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, Robin Todd be appointed as an Independent Member of the Authority's Standards Committee for a period of four years expiring on 8 February 2012.

Policy/Legal Background

3. The Standards Committee is a statutory committee appointed by the Authority under S.53 (1) of the Local Government Act 2000. The committee have specific and general functions, including promoting standards of ethical conduct of Members and carrying out local determinations of allegations of breaches of the Members Code of Conduct.
4. From April 2008 any allegations about breaches of the Members Code of Conduct will be made direct to the Standards Committee which will be responsible for assessing the complaint and deciding whether any action needs to be taken (referred to as 'local assessment').
5. To cater for this new responsibility the Authority meeting on 7 December 2007 agreed that the membership of the Standards Committee be increased to nine Members with the appointment of two Authority members and one Independent Member. (Minute 115/07).

Key Issues

6. Statutory Regulations prescribe that at least 25% of the membership of a Standards Committee shall not be Members of the Authority.
7. The appointment of an Independent Member is governed by the Local Government Act 2000 and The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001. This requires the appointment to be approved by a majority of Members of the Authority following public advertisement, submission of an application form and an interview. The usual term of appointment is four years which can be renewed.
8. Mr Bajaria, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Carr, an Independent Member of the Standards Committee, were appointed at the December Authority Meeting as a Panel to interview candidates for the vacancy and to make a recommendation to the Authority on an appointment.
9. Following advertisement two applications were received and both applicants were interviewed by the Panel. The Panel recommends that the Robin Todd from Saddleworth be appointed. Mr Todd is a retired Inland Revenue Tax Inspector.

APPENDIX

Background

1. See main report.

Resources

2. Independent Members of the Standards Committee are entitled to be paid travel and subsistence allowances for meetings and an annual co-optee's allowance of £543 under the Members' Allowances Scheme. These will be paid out of the Members' Allowances budget.

Risk Management

3. The appointment process has been carried out in compliance with the statutory regulations.

Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety

4. There are no implications arising out of the proposal.

Consultees

5. None.

Enclosures

6. None.

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

7. None.

Report Author

8. Eugene Judge, Democratic Services Manager.

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9. 31 January 2008.