

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

Purpose of the report

1 This report requests the meeting to appoint Members to the Standards Committee.

Recommendation

2 **That 3 Council Members and 3 Secretary of State Members be appointed to the Standards Committee.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3 Our committee and decision making processes contribute to Corporate Outcome K1 K1 "Ensuring value for money, sustainability and high standards of corporate governance in the way that we deliver services".

4 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 Code of Conduct, monitoring the Code and advising and training members on matters relevant to the Code.

5 The Committee has the powers to consider complaints against Members for a breach of the Code of Conduct and to decide whether or not to carry out an investigation or take other appropriate action. The Committee can hold hearings following an investigation where the complaint is upheld and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the Member, including suspension from the Authority for a period of up to six months.

6 The Committee also has power to determine appeals by staff against a decision of the Authority to designate a post as a politically restricted post.

Background

7 The composition of the Standards Committees is governed by The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. The Regulations prescribe that at least 25% of the membership shall not be Members of the Authority.

8 The agreed membership is 9 Members comprising 3 Council Members, 3 Secretary of State Members (National or Parish) and 3 Independent Members who are each appointed for a 4 year term. The Committee and any sub-committees have to be chaired by one of the Independent Members.

9 The current membership is:

Council Members:

Clr Mrs J Bevan
Clr A Marchington
Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe

Secretary of State Members:

Miss P Beswick
Mr C Carr
Mr C Pennell

Independent Members:

Mr R Ashworth, Mrs J Carr, Mr R Todd.

Proposals

10 It is proposed that the appointments be made to the Committee as usual.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

11 **Financial:**

Attendance at all meetings is an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

12 **Risk Management:**

There are no risks arising out of the proposal.

13 **Background papers** (not previously published) – None

Appendices - None

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Eugene Judge, Democratic Services Manager, 18 June 2009