

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Title of Report: Appointment of Independent Members on the
Standards Committee

Date: 24 February (General Purposes)
2 March 2009 (Standards)

Summary of this Report

This report outlines the arrangements for the appointment of Independent Members on the Standards Committee. It recommends to full Council the re-appointment of the existing Independent Members, for the periods shown in the report.

Recommendations

For the General Purposes Committee

That the Council be recommended to appoint the Independent Members to the Standards Committee, as follows:

Mrs Elizabeth Peace to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011
Lord Dennis Stevenson to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011
Lord Richard Best to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2012
The Very Reverend John Hall to the Annual Council Meeting in May 2012

For the Standards Committee

That the report be noted.



City of Westminster

General Purposes Committee Report Standards Committee Report

Item No:	
Date:	24 February 2009 (General Purposes Committee) 2 March 2009 (Standards Committee)
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Appointment of Independent Members on the Standards Committee
Report of:	Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
Wards involved:	None
Policy context:	High Ethical Standards
Financial summary:	There are no financial implications
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3. Background Information

- 3.1 The Council, on 7 May 2008, appointed 4 Independent Members to the Standards Committee for a period of one year until the Annual Council Meeting on 13 May 2009. Each of the four existing Independent Members has indicated their willingness to serve for a further period as set out below:

Lord Dennis Stevenson to May 2011

Mrs Elizabeth Peace to May 2011

Lord Richard Best to May 2012

The Very Reverend John Hall to May 2012

- 3.2 The Standards Board for England recommend that Independent Members should sit on the Standards Committee for differing periods so that all the experience gained is not lost at the same time. They further recommended that the maximum period served be eight years.
- 3.3 Independent Members must be chosen in a fair and open way. A person can only be an Independent Member if that person:
- has not been a member or employee of the Council within the five years before the date of appointment.
 - is not a Member or officer of that or any other relevant authority;
 - is not a relative or close friend of a Member or employee of the Council;
 - has submitted as application for the appointment;
 - has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council;
- 3.4 It is a further requirement that the position of Independent Member be advertised in at least one newspaper distributed in the Council's area. This was done when the Council recruited last year. In addition the positions were advertised in the Evening Standard and use was made of a recruitment agency, Primetimers, which specialises in recruiting for the voluntary sector particularly from those people recently retired.
- 3.5 As the requirements set out in paragraph 3.3 and 3.4 have been met at the time of the original appointments it is in order for the Council to re-appoint the existing Independent Members.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no further legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

If you wish to inspect one of the background documents please contact Mick Steward on 020 7641 3134; email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk

Background Documents

- SBE Guidance