


Non-Executive Report of the: Council Wednesday, 17 March 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Interim Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Appoint Co-Opted Member to the Standards Advisory Committee	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

The Standards Advisory Committee has recently run a recruitment exercise to fill the co-opted member vacancy on the Committee.

From a strong field, the recruitment panel selected Denzil Johnson as the candidate to recommend for appointment.

Council are therefore requested to agree the appointment of Denzil Johnson for a four-year term on the Committee.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint Denzil Johnson as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term, expiring on 17 March 2025

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are currently four Independent Co-opted Members of the Standards Advisory Committee and one vacant position. There are five Councillor Members of the Committee.
- 1.2 Ensuring full independent representation on the Committee is best practice in the operation of Standards Advisory Committees.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council may choose not to confirm the appointment. This course of action is not recommended.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Standards Advisory Committee has undertaken a full recruitment exercise to select a new co-opted Member to fill the vacancy on the Committee.
- 3.2 This included the standard recruitment advertising, shortlisting, interviews and pre-recruitment checks. The panel consisted of:
- John Pulford: Co-opted Chair of the Committee
 - Asmat Hussain: Corporate Director, Governance
 - Councillor Bex White
- 3.3 Following the process, the panel determined, from a number of high quality applicants that Denzil Johnson was the highest scoring candidate and should be offered the position.
- 3.4 Appointment of Members to Committees of the Council is the responsibility of Council. Therefore, this report asked for Council's agreement to appoint Denzil Johnson to the Standards Advisory Committee as a co-opted Member for the standard four-year term.
- 3.5 John Pulford, Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee, who Chaired the panel reported that:

“Denzil Johnson was the best of three well qualified candidates interviewed for the vacant Co-opted member position. He had previously served on the Standards Advisory Committee from September 2011 until September 2013 when he resigned due to the need to be out of the country for an extended period of time. Officers had reported him as having been a diligent member of the Committee. His personal background includes legal training and having been a caseworker for a national medical regulator. Now he is available again and he is keen to contribute to the work of the Committee.”

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is important for the role of Standards Advisory Committee that external co-optees are involved in providing input to ensure the Council maintains strong governance of the Member Code of Conduct.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,

- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 Not having a well-functioning Standards Advisory Committee is a risk to the governance of the authority.

6. **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. **COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 As indicated in paragraph 3.4 above the appointment of co-opted Members to the Standards Advisory Committee is the responsibility of Council. A proper recruitment process has been followed and there are no other legal implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A