

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2015

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report notes the appointment of Mr Daniel McLaughlin as a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee in accordance with the previous decision taken by the Council on 25th February 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That pursuant to (i) the decision of the Council on 25th February 2015 that Mr Daniel McLaughlin be appointed as a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee in the event of any further vacancy arising for a co-opted member during the municipal year to May 2015; and (ii) the resignation of Mr Barry O'Connor on 18th March 2015 giving rise to such a vacancy; the Council note the appointment of Mr Daniel McLaughlin as a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee for a four year term of office from 20th May 2015.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has appointed the Standards Advisory Committee with terms of reference as set out in the Authority's constitution which include advisory functions in connection with the ethical framework of the Authority, the Code of Conduct for Members and complaints of any breach of that code.
- 3.2 The Council has decided that the membership of the Standards Advisory Committee will include up to seven voting co-opted members who are neither Members nor officers of the Council, and that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee shall be drawn from amongst the co-opted members. The co-opted members are appointed for a four year term of office.

- 3.3 On 25th February 2015 the Council received a report regarding vacancies that had arisen amongst the co-opted positions on the Standards Advisory Committee, and setting out the results of the recruitment exercise that had been conducted to fill those vacancies.
- 3.4 The Council resolved to appoint Ms Nafisa Adam and Mr Michael James Houston as co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee, to serve for a term of office of four years from 25th February 2015; and further resolved:-
- “That in the event of any further vacancy arising for a co-opted member on the Standards Advisory Committee during the current municipal year to May 2015, Mr Daniel McLaughlin be appointed to that position, also for a term of office of four years from the date of appointment.”
- 3.5 A further vacancy subsequently did arise for a co-opted member on the Standards Advisory Committee when, on 18th March 2015, Mr Barry O’Connor tendered his resignation from the Committee and indicated that he did not wish to put himself forward for re-appointment in 2015/16.
- 3.6 In accordance with the Council’s decision of 25th February 2015 therefore, Mr Daniel McLaughlin has been appointed to fill the vacant position of co-opted member on the Standards Advisory Committee with effect from the start of the 2015/16 municipal year.
- 3.7 The Council will be aware that persons appointed as co-opted members undergo training on the Code of Conduct and other matters before taking up their place on the Committee and before serving as a member of any Investigation and Disciplinary, Hearing or Dispensations Sub-Committee.

4. OBSERVATIONS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The Council’s Scheme of Members Allowances provides for a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee to claim a co-optee’s allowance of £121 for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or a conference or training event where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council. A co-opted member may also claim travel and subsistence allowance under the scheme.
- 4.2 Any payments made pursuant to Paragraph 5.1 above will be met from within the existing budget provision for Members’ Allowances held by Democratic Services.

5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a number of changes to the Standards regime. To meet these requirements, the Council adopted a Code of Conduct for Members and established a Standards Advisory Committee, using the powers under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 5.2 Part 3 of the Council's Constitution sets out that the Standards Advisory Committee shall be composed of seven Members of the Council (not including the Mayor or more than one Cabinet Member) and seven co-opted members. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Constitution, appointment of co-opted members must be approved by Full Council, and such appointments will generally be for 4 years.
- 5.3 Section 13(4) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 enables co-opted members to vote at meetings. This is therefore provided for under the Constitution, which additionally requires that the Committee be chaired by a co-opted member.
- 5.4 The recommendations in this report regarding appointment of co-opted members are in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS

- 6.1 The co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee are drawn from a variety of communities represented within the borough. The Council seeks to attract applicants from all sectors and communities represented locally to ensure diversity within the Committee membership.

7. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Standards Advisory Committee plays a key role in ensuring the adequacy of the Council's Governance arrangements and ethical and assurance framework.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

- 9.1 There are no SAGE implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
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No unpublished background papers were relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.