

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Council</b></p> <p>Wednesday, 16 November 2022</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p><b>Appoint Co-Opted Member to the Standards Advisory Committee</b></p>	

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

### **Executive Summary**

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

From a strong field, the recruitment panel selected Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin as the candidates to recommend for appointment.

Council are therefore requested to agree the appointments of Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin for four-year terms on the Committee.

### **Recommendations:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin as Co-opted Members of the Standards Advisory Committee for four-year terms, expiring on 17 November 2026.

#### **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 There are currently three Independent Co-opted Members of the Standards Advisory Committee and two vacant positions. 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
  - Janet Fasan: Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer
  - Matthew Mannion: Head of Democratic Services
- 3.3 Following the process, the panel determined, from a number of high-quality applicants that Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin were the highest scoring candidates and should be offered the positions.
- 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 Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin to the Standards Advisory Committee as co-opted Members for the standard four-year term.
- 3.5 John Pulford, Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee, who Chaired the panel reported that:

“Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin were the best of three well qualified candidates interviewed for the vacant Co-opted member positions.

Elizabeth has a long history of working in the world of Local Authority Standards, with significant experience at the Standards Board for England and she has also previously served as an Independent Person here in Tower Hamlets advising the Monitoring Officer on Code of Conduct Complaints.

Syed meanwhile has useful local government experience alongside good experience in managing audit and investigation matters including with Deloitte. He has served as a trustee or board member for various local organisations and groups.”

### **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. Co-opted Members are funded within the existing Member's Allowances budget of £1.183m.

## **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.

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## **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