

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Standards (Advisory) Committee - Appointment of Independent Co-opted Member	

Originating Officer(s)	Mark Norman, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 There are currently three vacancies for Independent Co-opted Members of the Standards (Advisory) Committee. This report recommends the appointment of Ms Fiona Browne to one of the vacant positions.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council approve the appointment of Ms Fiona Browne as an Independent Co-opted Member of the Standards (Advisory) Committee for a term of office of four years to expire on 31 January 2021.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The Council Constitution sets out the agreed membership of the Standards (Advisory) Committee which allows for the appointment of up to seven Independent Co-opted Members. There are currently three vacancies and the appointment of Ms Browne is subject to approval by full Council.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council may choose not to appoint Ms Browne and to vary the number of Independent Co-Optees appointed to the Standards (Advisory) Committee. This course of action is not recommended.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The membership of the Standards (Advisory) Committee is subject to the annual reconstitution of the Committee at the Council's AGM. The membership of the Committee includes councillors and up to seven voting co-opted members. Councillors are appointed to the Committee annually in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality. The Council has specified that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee should be drawn from amongst the co-opted members. Article 9 of the Council's Constitution, provides that the appointment of co-opted members must be approved by full Council and such appointments will generally be for 4 years.
- 5.2 There are currently four Independent Co-opted Members of the Advisory Committee whose terms of office expire as detailed below.
- Mr John Pulford MBE (Chair) - September 2017
 - Ms Nafisa Adam (Vice- Chair) – February 2019
 - Mr Michael James Houston - February 2019
 - Mr Daniel Mc Laughlin - May 2019

The Council has also appointed an Independent Person (Elizabeth Hall) as required by the Localism Act 2011 and her term of office was extended by full Council on 20 July 2016 and will expire in June 2018.

- 5.3 There are therefore currently three vacancies for Independent Co-opted Members of the Advisory Committee and on 20 July 2016, the full Council agreed to the recruit to the three vacancies and also to recruit for a Reserve Independent Person.
- 5.4 Following the decision of full Council, an advertisement for the roles was placed in the Council's Our East End September quarterly publication and in two editions of the East London Advertiser (on 8 and 15 September 2016). In addition, the advertisement was placed on the Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed and included on the Council and the East London Advertiser website.

5.5 Unfortunately no applications were received for the role of Reserve Independent Person. One completed application was received for the role of Independent Co-opted Member from Ms Fiona Browne. Her application was assessed against criteria contained in the Independent Co-optee role description and person specification and she was invited for interview. The interview panel comprised the Independent Chair of the Standards (Advisory) Committee, the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Head of Legal Services (Operations).

5.6 Ms Browne is recommended to the Council for appointment. Through her application and during interview Ms Browne demonstrated high quality personal attributes and an ability to meet the requirements of the role of Independent Co-optee. She is also resident in the Borough and works as the Head of Professional Standards for the General Osteopathic Council. The interview panel was unanimous in deciding to recommend her to the Council for appointment. Excellent references have also been provided subsequent to interview.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

6.1 The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments to make.

7. LEGAL SERVICES COMMENTS

7.1 This report has been prepared by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and incorporates legal comments.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The appointment of Independent Co-opted Members to the Advisory Committee assists in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct and improving confidence in local democracy.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 There are no specific antipoverty or equal opportunity implications arising out of this report.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

10.1 This report has no immediate implications for the Council's policy of sustainable action for a greener environment.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder reduction implications arising out of this report.

12. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 12.1 This report is not concerned with proposed expenditure, the use of resources or reviewing/changing service delivery and an efficiency statement is not therefore required.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report:

Report to Council (20 July 2016) – Appointments Related to the Standards Regime.

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.

- Independent Co-optee and IP (Reserve) appointment file.

Officer contact details for documents:

- Mark Norman 020 7364 4800