

## **Committee: Standards Committee**

**Date: 21 October 2015**

Wards: All

### **Subject: Appointment of independent persons and their relationship to Standards Committee**

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of Standards Committee

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, 0208 545 3864

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#### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Standards Committee note the appointment of Suresh Patel and Derek Prior as independent persons to serve for a period of three years from 12 July 2015;
  - B. That the Standards Committee note that the independent persons are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of Standards Committee in an advisory non-voting capacity;
  - C. That the Standards Committee agrees to review this arrangement in February 2016 and to take a view on whether it still requires a co-opted member once Sophie Bowen's first term of office finishes in June 2016.
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#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Standards Committee has previously agreed to combine the roles of the independent persons and the independent non-voting co-opted members of the Standards Committee.
- 1.2. This is no longer viable as such an arrangement would automatically disqualify the independent person from continuing to be an independent person.
- 1.3. The role description for the independent person has therefore been amended so, rather than being a co-opted member, the independent persons are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of the Standards Committee in an advisory, non-voting capacity.
- 1.4. Council has agreed the appointment of Suresh Patel and Derek Prior as independent persons to serve for a period of three years from 12 July 2015.

#### **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1. The appointment of co-opted members to Standards Committee is entirely discretionary.

#### **3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 3.1. None

#### **4 TIMETABLE**

- 4.1. None.

**5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Independent persons and co-opted members of the Standards Committee are paid £100 per meeting. The recommendations in this report will not lead to any increase in the overall budget for allowances.

**6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. See body of the report.

**7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None specific to this report.

**8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None specific to this report.

**9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None specific to this report

**10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- none

**11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1. None