



City of Westminster

Standards Committee Report

Date:	9th March 2011 (Standards Committee)
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Appointment of Independent Members on the Standards Committee
Report of:	Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
Wards Involved:	None
Policy Context:	High Ethical Standards
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications
Report Author and Contact Details:	Mick Steward Tel: 020 7641 3134 Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the arrangements for the appointment of Independent Members on the Standards Committee. It advises that the General Purposes Committee on 22 February recommended to full Council the re-appointment of the two existing Independent Members whose period of office is due to expire in May 2011, namely Mrs Elizabeth Peace and Lord Dennis Stevenson, until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2012.

2. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council, on 13 May 2009, appointed 4 Independent Members to the Standards Committee for the following periods:

Lord Dennis Stevenson to May 2011
Mrs Elizabeth Peace to May 2011
Lord Richard Best to May 2012
The Very Reverend John Hall to May 2012

Lord Stevenson and Mrs Peace have both agreed to serve for a period up to May 2012 or until such time as the requirement to have a Standards Committee is removed, if that is sooner. The General Purposes Committee on 22 February agreed to recommend the Council accordingly.

3.2 The Standards Board for England recommend that Independent Members should sit on the Standards Committee for a maximum period of eight years. If further appointment is made it will still mean that the period of office for each of the Independent Members will not have exceeded 4 years.

3.3 Independent Members must be chosen in a fair and open way. A person can only be an Independent Member if that person:

Has not been a member or employee of the Council within the five years before the date of appointment;

- is not a Member or officer of that or any other relevant authority;
- is not a relative or close friend of a Member or employee of the Council;
- has submitted an application for the appointment;
- has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council.

3.4 It is a further requirement that the position of Independent Member be advertised in at least one newspaper distributed in the Council's area. This was done when the Council initially recruited. In addition the positions were advertised in the Evening Standard and use was made of a recruitment agency, Primetimers, which specialises in recruiting for the Voluntary Sector.

3.5 As the requirements set out in paragraph 3.3 and 3.4 have been met at the time of the original appointments it is in order for the Council to re-appoint Lord Stevenson and Mrs Peace as Independent Members.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no further legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact: Mick Steward on 020 7641 3134
Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Standards Board Guidance