



# ISLINGTON

**Corporate Resources**  
**Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD**

**Report of : Director of Corporate Resources**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	17 October 2006	8	-

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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If exempt under paragraph 10.4, category (1-15) of the Access to Information rules give reasons. Because: (please delete if not required)

## **Subject: MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **1. Synopsis**

As part of the recruitment process for the independent member vacancy on the Committee, eight candidates were interviewed. The Sub-Committee asked the Monitoring Officer to report to this Committee on the possibility of widening representation on the Committee by the introduction of advisory members. This report asks the Committee to consider appointing Mr. Kit Peverley and Mr. Manjit Kumar as advisory members to the Committee.

### **2. Recommendations**

- (1) To agree to co-opt non-voting advisory members to the Committee.
- (2) To agree that the non-voting co-optees shall not be entitled to sit on the Committee when it is considering allegations against a Member following a referral to them by an Ethical Standards Officer

### **3. Background Details**

- 3.1 In September the Personnel Sub-Committee conducted interviews in order to fill the independent place on the Standards Committee. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October the Council accepted their recommendation to appoint Mr Eric Sorenson for the position.

- 3.2 A significant proportion of the questions were aimed at ensuring that the successful candidate would have the skills necessary to hear allegations in a formal structured setting. It seems clear that the now current membership is well placed to deal with such cases.
- 3.3 However an equally important part of the work of this Committee is to communicate the importance of standards of public life and thus to boost confidence in it. It occurred to the Personnel Sub Committee that in order to improve the outward facing aspects of the Committee's work, it might be desirable to widen representation on the Committee and to make use of a broad range of experience and expertise.
- 3.4 To this end, the Personnel Sub- Committee asked this Committee to consider whether it might benefit from co-opting additional members on to the Committee. Should it be so inclined the Personnel Sub Committees recommended that two of the candidates they interviewed should be considered. Their CV's and further explanations are set out in the exempt section of this report.
- 3.5 If additional Members are co-opted, bearing in mind that they will be additional Members, not formally appointed by the council, they will not be able to have voting rights. Bearing in mind that in relation to the non case work of the Committee it is very rare for votes to be necessary, this is likely to be of little practical relevance.
- 3.6 It is also recognised that given the sometimes sensitive and confidential nature of the cases referred to this Committee for local determination, it would be inappropriate for the co-opted members to participate in those hearings.
- 3.7 Finally, it is recommended that the term of office be one year as this will allow for additional opportunities for new candidates to come forward. Further consideration will be given to the method of their selection during the course of the year.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Legal Implications**

Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 set out the requirements for the appointment of Independent Members to the Committee. The Regulations do not prohibit the authority from including advisory members onto the Committee but these members would not be able to hear or decide cases referred by the Standards Board or having voting rights.

### **4.2 Financial Implications**

Any costs relating to these appointments can be considered within existing budgets.

### **4.3 Equality Implications**

Broadening the membership on the Committee to include young people and representatives from the ethnic minorities will help give a wider perspective of views from the local community.

Final Report Clearance

Signed by -----  
Director of Corporate Resources Date

Received by -----  
Head of Democratic Services Date

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