

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS
COMMITTEE**

Purpose of report

1. To propose a procedure for the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee for adoption by the Council.

Background

2. The provisions of the revised Constitution relating to the term of office of independent members are as follows:
 - ◆ one independent member of the Standards Committee will retire on the third anniversary of his appointment in 2004, one in 2005, and one each year thereafter;
 - ◆ new appointments of independent members will be for a term of three years;
 - ◆ if at the end of their term of office a member wishes to be re-appointed he or she will be eligible to apply;
3. The Council will need to have a procedure for the appointment of new independent members in place by April 2004 when one of the existing independent members is due to retire.

Appointment of independent members

4. The process for appointing independent members is governed by the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001. These require:
 - ◆ the appointment to be advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the Council's area;
 - ◆ an application to be submitted to the Council;

- ◆ the appointment to be approved by a majority of the members of the Council;
 - ◆ that applicants have not been a member or officer of the Council within the previous five years, and are not a relative or close friend of a member or officer of the Council.
5. It is proposed that applicants for appointment as independent members of the Standards Committee are interviewed by a Selection Panel comprising:
- ◆ the Chairman of the Standards Committee or the Vice-Chairman if the Chairman is not available;
 - ◆ the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or an elected member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee nominated by its Chairman;
 - ◆ an independent person with relevant experience, who is not a member or officer of the Council.
6. The Selection Panel will interview the applicants and recommend the person who is considered to be the most suitable for appointment by the Council.

Financial implications

7. There will be some costs involved in advertising for applicants, as required by the regulations, and expenses in connection with the Selection Panel.

Risks associated with this report

8. None.

Recommendation

9. The Committee is invited to recommend the Council to adopt the procedure for appointing independent members as outlined above.

STEPHEN GERRARD
MONITORING OFFICER

Report Author: Ian Gibbons Deputy Monitoring Officer

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: None

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this report: None