

# MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011 REPORT NO. 19

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE:**

Council – 30 June 2010

**REPORT OF:**

Director of Director of Finance  
and Corporate Resources

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<b>Agenda – Part:1</b>	<b>Item: 11</b>
<b>Subject: Standards Committee – Increased Membership &amp; Appointment of Two Independent Members</b>	
<b>Wards: Non Specific</b>	
Cabinet Member consulted: N/A	

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that the membership of the Standards Committee be increased from three to four Independent members.

That, subject to the recommendation regarding the increase in membership being agreed, this report also recommends that Dr Elliot Finer and Mr Simon James be appointed as independent members of the Standards Committee, to fill the current vacancies in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Council endorses the recommendation of the Appointment Panel that the membership of the Standards Committee be increased from three independent members to four with immediate effect.
- 2.2** That the Council also endorses the recommendation of the Appointment Panel that Dr Finer and Mr James be appointed as the independent members of the Standards Committee, subject to references, to fill the current vacancies in accordance with the Council's Constitution for a period of four years (May 2014), subject to the review detailed in recommendation 2.3 below.
- 2.3** That the number of independent members on the Standards Committee be reviewed by Council at the end of this Municipal Year.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council has established a Standards Committee, whose primary purpose is to advise on and promote good standards of conduct amongst members, including the provision of training and good practice guidance.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee comprises three members who are not councillors (the independent members) and six members of the Council (who shall not be the Mayor or members of the cabinet). In the Municipal Year 2010/11, Mr Geoffrey Mills and Mr Lawrence Greenberg continue to serve as independent members. However, there has been one Independent member vacancy since Mr Rufus Barnes left his position in May 2010.
- 3.3 All independent members are entitled to vote at meetings. Full Council appoints the independent members, whose appointment will be for four years (ending May 2014).
- 3.4 In order to recruit an additional independent member, the position was advertised in the Enfield Advertiser and Enfield Independent for one week from 12 May to 19 May 2010. The deadline for applications was 28 May 2010.
- 3.5 Eight candidates applied for the position, each submitting an application form and a signed declaration confirming that none of the ineligibility criteria applied to them.
- 3.6 A member level Appointment Panel was set up to undertake the selection process on behalf of the Standards Committee. The panel comprised of two independent members along with two elected members.
- 3.7 The Appointment Panel met on 23 June 2010 and interviewed four candidates. It considered the information they had submitted including a presentation. Each candidate was assessed against the criteria for the position of an independent member. Having considered the candidates the Appointment Panel unanimously agreed that due to the high calibre of two of the applicants both candidates should be recommended to Council and that the number of independent members on the Standards Committee should be increased from three to four to accommodate this. The Appointment Panel felt that the Standards Committee would benefit from the addition of both candidates.

The proposed increased membership would provide the committee with additional capacity and more flexibility to meet the new requirements under the new statutory framework. The new arrangements were detailed in a previous report to Council on 23

January 2008 (Report No.203) on Standards Committee – Increased Membership.

The panel also agreed to recommend to Council that Dr Elliot Finer and Mr Simon James be appointed as independent members of the Standards Committee subject to references.

- 3.8 The recommendations proposed by the Appointment Panel were discussed informally with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition prior to this report being submitted to Council. They supported the recommendations of the Appointment Panel. The number of independent members on the Standards Committee will be reviewed by Council at the end of this Municipal Year when Geoffrey Mills (Independent Member) period of office ends in May 2011.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No other options have been considered as the action taken is in accordance with procedure specified in the Council's Constitution.

#### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To fill the Standards Committee independent member vacancies in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

##### **6.1 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from the proposals described in this report.

##### **6.2 Legal Implications**

The Council is required under section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000 to have a Standards Committee, with at least one member independent of the Council.

Secondary legislation governs more detailed aspects, such as appointments, and the Council's Constitution also covers procedural matters. The appointments process has been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, subject to the appointments being finalised by Council as requested above. The recommended appointments are required to be approved by a majority of the members of the authority.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Filling the independent member vacancies provides the committee with additional capacity to meet the new requirements under the new statutory framework.

## **8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The appointment of two additional independent members is necessary to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the committee in meeting the wider demands set within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It is essential that the Standards Committee maintains and assures the Council's integrity and reputation for its communities and external inspection.

The work undertaken by the Standards Committee is key to ensuring the Council is able to fulfil its duties under the new statutory framework.

## **9. COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

The process has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's recruitment and selection process with the position being widely advertised across all sections of the community. The appointment strengthens the community representation role on the committee.

## **10. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST**

Aim 5 –Provide High Quality and Efficient Services

### **Background Papers**

Adverts placed in the Enfield Advertiser and Enfield Independent local papers.

Report to Council on 23 January 2008 (Report No.203) on Standards Committee – Increased Membership