

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 29th March 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of two new independent members to the Standards Committee for the four year period of the next Council.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Council is recommended to agree the appointment of Mr George Kidd and Mr Richard Allen as independent members of the Standards Committee for the four year period of the next Council, commencing in May 2010.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost - allowances are not paid to independent members
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: There is not a seaprate budget head for the work of the standards committee.
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. The Standards Committee and the standards system are requirements of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by subsequent legislation, most recently the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. The proposed decision is not an executive matter.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All residents and visitors to the borough.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Since 2009, there have been five independent member positions on the Council's Standards Committee. Two vacancies have arisen following (i) the resignation of Mr David Barnett at the end of 2009 and (ii) the end of Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild's term of office at the conclusion of this Council year.
- 3.2 An Appointment Panel met on 8th March 2010 to recommend replacements for these two positions. The Panel chairman was Mr Jonathan Prince, Chairman of the Standards Committee, and the Panel also included Councillors Stephen Carr, Martin Curry, Peter Dean, Peter Fookes and Michael Tickner. A number of candidates for the two vacancies were interviewed against the job description and person specification (attached as [Appendix 1](#)). Arising from this it was agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr George Kidd and Mr Richard Allen as independent members of the Standards Committee for the four year period of the next Council, commencing in May 2010.
- 3.3. Both Mr Allen and Mr Kidd are local residents, with extensive experience of handling sensitive ethical issues in a work context. Mr Allen has experience of setting up and operating corporate governance systems and processes in his previous employment at director level in a number of central government departments. Mr Kidd has relevant experience as a senior civil servant, his previous role as Chief Executive and Board member on a national regulatory body, and his current role as a Board member of the Direct Marketing Commission. Both demonstrated a strong commitment to contributing to the local community through assisting the Standards Committee in promoting and ensuring high ethical standards in the way the Council goes about its business.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A Committee comprising 5 independent and 5 elected members is within the rules governing the composition of Standards Committees set out in the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The rules on political balance do not apply to Standards committees.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial/Policy
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report to Council on 29 th June 2009 – "Standards Committee – Appointment of Additional Independent Members"

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Person Specification

Persons who serve on the Standards Committee should meet the 4 criteria in section A of our person specification and the majority of the criteria in section B:

Section A

- Have no current active involvement with a political party;
- Not have been a member or officer of the London Borough of Bromley in the previous eight years;
- Not be a close friend or relative of a member or officer of the London Borough of Bromley;
- Neither at appointment, or during their term of office, be in a position where they have a material conflict of interest involving their relationship with the Council which could have (or could be perceived by others as having) a detrimental effect on their capacity to carry out their standards role in an independent and impartial way.

Section B

- Possess tact and interpersonal skills in creating effective working relationships;
- Show commitment to the effective provision of public services;
- Have proven experience of dealing with people and matters where conduct and actions should be of the highest standard;
- Have proven experience of providing advice/support on issues of conduct and probity;
- Possess an understanding of issues of ethics and probity;
- Have the analytical ability to weigh up/sort evidence and reach rational conclusions;
- Possess decision-making skills involving sensitive issues;
- Have an understanding of, or the ability to understand, the issues surrounding standards and ethics in public life;
- Possess awareness of the rôle of a Council and its Councillors or have awareness of corporate governance.

Job Description

The successful candidate will be required:

- To help promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors;
- To evaluate and hear complaints made against Councillors;
- To champion the ethical agenda within the Council and, where appropriate, with Partner Organisations;
- To assist Councillors to observe the Code of Conduct;
- As a member of the Standards Committee, to provide occasional training *and* support for Councillors in ethical conduct;
- To advise the authority on revision of the Code of Conduct and monitor its operation;
- To observe confidentiality at all times.