

**Meeting: COUNCIL**  
**Date: 26 MAY 2010**

**Agenda Item: 15**

## **THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Author – Paul Froggatt Ext.No. 2212  
Contact Officer – Paul Froggatt Ext No 2212  
Lead Officer –Nick Parry Ext No 2225

### **1. PURPOSE**

To agree the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Emmanuel Mensah is appointed as the third Independent Member of the Standards Committee with immediate effect, for a period of four years.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Since 2008 the Standards Committee has included three Independent Members. All meetings of the Standards and its Sub-Committees must be chaired by an independent member and at least three independent members are required in order to comply with the statutory procedures for the local determination of complaints against members.
- 3.2 A vacancy has arisen following the resignation of Stewart Gillies after seven years of service.
- 3.3 The method of appointing independent Standard Committee members is prescribed by law in particular:
- The appointment must be approved by a majority of the Members
  - The position must be advertised in one or more newspapers circulating the area
  - The candidate must have submitted an application form
  - The candidate must not be disqualified by having been a Member or officer of the Authority in the past five years and
  - The candidate must not be a relative or close friend of a Member or officer.

**4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The vacancy was advertised in the Comet and there were six applicants. Four applicants were interviewed by the Chief Executive and Borough Solicitor and it is proposed that Mr Mensah be appointed to this post. Mr Mensah works in the Probation Service and is a school governor. It is felt inappropriate to include further biographical and personal details of the applicant in this report though if appointed as an Independent Member by the Council, Mr Mensah will be bound by the same Code of Conduct and required to complete the same declaration of interests as all other members.

**5. IMPLICATIONS**

None specific

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Newspaper advertisement in Comet 4 March 2010

**APPENDICES**

None