

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

8TH JUNE 2011

1. EXTENSION TO CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The current term of office of Mr. Noel Burke, Independent Member Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee, is due to expire on 16th November 2011. This is Mr. Burke's first term of office. In accordance with both Council and national policy he is eligible to stand for a further 4-year term should he so wish. Mr. Burke has confirmed to officers that it would be his intention to stand for a second term of office.
- 1.2 If Mr. Burke were to seek a second term of office this would normally require his making application for the position as part of a full (external) recruitment process. Any resulting recommendations of the Council's Appointments Committee, as part of that process, would be considered by full Council who is responsible for making independent member appointments to the Committee.
- 1.3 In view of the proposals contained within the Localism Bill for the abolition, in 2012, of mandatory Standards Committees, officers have sought guidance from Standards for England (the strategic regulator for the national standards regime) as to whether it would be possible to extend Mr. Burke's current term of office, to cover the period up to the abolition of the Standards Committee in its present format. Such an extension, if approved by the Council, would see the retention of Mr. Burke's expertise on the Committee and would also avoid the costs, in terms of both the required finance for the advertisement of the vacancy and the associated officer and Member support time, involved in carrying out the full recruitment process.
- 1.4 Standards for England have confirmed that provided an independent member's term of office has not yet come to an end, they believe it is acceptable to extend that term with the approval of the Council without going through a full recruitment process. This is applicable to an independent member who has served either one or two terms of office. The crucial factor is that their term has not come to an end before it is extended. Once the independent member's term has expired the full recruitment procedures must be followed.
- 1.5 At the meeting of the Standards Committee which took place on 8th June 2011 Members supported a recommendation to the Council to approve an extension to Mr. Burke's current term of office, for the reasons detailed at point 1.3 above. The Committee noted that the term of office in question related only to Mr. Burke's membership of the existing Standards Committee and not to any successor committee which might be introduced following the cessation of the current Committee.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED**

that the current term of office of Mr. Noel Burke, Independent Member Chairman of the Standards Committee, be extended until the Standards Committee, in its present format, is abolished in accordance with the proposals contained within the Localism Bill.

Debbie Parker-Jones
Ethical Standards Officer