

ITEM NO: 7

REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	8 April 2014
REPORT OF:	Borough Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
SUBJECT MATTER:	TERMS OF OFFICE: INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
REPORT:	To inform Committee members of the terms of office of Independent Members of the Standards Committee and recommendations for appointments in 2014/15. In June 2008 the Committee agreed that Independent Members should be appointed on a fixed term of four years and serve no longer than two terms. The report sets out the terms served by the current Independent Members.
RECOMMENDATION(S)	<p>That the Standards Committee notes the following recommendations to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The appointment of Valerie Bracken and Jaqueline Barnes as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2014/15; and• That formal thanks be extended to David Berry for his service and contribution during his lengthy service to the Standards Committee.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Treasurer)	There are no significant financial issues arising from this Report.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	These are set out in the report.
RISK MANAGEMENT:	To comply with legal requirements set out in the Localism Act 2011.
LINKS TO COMMUNITY STRATEGY:	Support the current arrangements for ethical and corporate governance of the Authority to ensure that the public can have confidence in local government.
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	NON-CONFIDENTIAL
	This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	Further information can be obtained from the Council's Borough Solicitor and statutory Monitoring Officer by contacting 0161-342-3028 or by e-mail Sandra.Stewart@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the Annual Council meeting on 10 June 2014, consideration will be given to the appointment of persons nominated in accordance with the relevant guidance to serve on the Council's various panels, committees and outside bodies for the municipal year 2014/15 including the Standards Committee.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee is crucial in maintaining high ethical standards and in advising, assisting and guiding Elected Members in the adoption, monitoring, operation, enforcement and review of various local codes of conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints about Elected Member conduct.

2. INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

- 2.1 Independent members are important in helping to increase public confidence in local government, providing a clear signal that the Standards Committee is acting fairly and impartially and also bringing a wider perspective from their outside experiences.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 24 June 2008, the Standards Committee considered a report on the content of guidance issued by the Standards Board and recommended to Council revised membership of the Standards Committee to comply with the new regulations and statutory guidance. This guidance recommended that independent members should be appointed on a fixed term of four years and serve no longer than two terms.
- 2.3 Following the implementation of the new standards requirements in the Localism Act 2011 the Council appointed three independent persons who had previously had extensive experience on the Standards Committee as follows:

Independent Member	Date of Appointment
David Berry	19 August 2003
Valerie Bracken	23 July 2008
Jaqueline Barnes	23 July 2008

- 2.4 In considering appointments to the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2014/15 it is intended that Valerie Bracken and Jacqueline Barnes be recommended to Council to serve on the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2014/15. However, it will not be possible to recommend the appointment of David Berry owing to his lengthy service to the Committee.
- 2.5 Given the current workload of the Standards Committee it is not intended to recruit a further Independent Member at this time.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Valerie Bracken and Jacqueline Barnes be appointed to serve as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for 2014/15.
- 3.3 That formal thanks be extended to David Berry for his service and contribution during his lengthy service to the Standards Committee.