

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Standards Committee	3 May 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Co-opted Member Vacancy	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> The Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Gemma Stokley, Senior Committee and Member Services Officer	

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is for Members to note the vacancy that now exists for a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee following the recent resignation of Mark Greenburgh and to determine what action, if any, to take at this stage in terms of re-appointing to this vacancy.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is recommended to note the vacancy and take a decision on the options for appointing a further Co-opted Member.

### **Main Report**

1. This report sets out the options around appointing to the existing vacancy for a Co-opted Member the Standards Committee.
2. The principal function of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the City of London Corporation, to assist Members and Co-opted Members to observe the City of London Corporation's Code of Conduct and to deal with any allegations of breach of the City of London Corporation's Code of Conduct in respect of Members and Co-opted Members.
3. Following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, this Committee (with the Court of Common Council's subsequent approval), determined that the Committee's composition should continue to include four Co-opted Members (with no voting rights) who must not be Members of the Court of Common Council or employees of the City of London Corporation. This determination remained unchanged following the review of the Standards framework carried out in 2017/18.
4. In line with the agreed process for appointing Co-opted Members, vacancies must be advertised, candidates must submit an application and recommended appointments, submitted by an Selection Panel consisting of the Chairman and

Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen (or their representatives), must be approved by the Court of Common Council.

### **Background to the current position**

5. A vacancy for a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee arose in March 2019 following the resignation of Mark Greenburgh.
6. Mr Greenburgh was re-appointed to the Standards Committee at the end of 2018 for a 3 year term expiring in December 2021 and so, any new Co-opted Member appointment would initially be to fill the balance of this term.
7. If the Committee were minded to proceed immediately with the appointment process, the position could be advertised in May 2019 with the expectation that an appointment could then be made by Autumn 2019.
8. Previously, applicants have been asked to demonstrate:-
  - an understanding of the role and objectives of the City of London Corporation;
  - community or business experience (preferably, you will either have lived or worked in the City for a number of years);
  - an insight into and understanding of the demands and pressures placed on individuals in public service;
  - the ability to think logically and in an impartial manner;
  - an understanding of the Nolan Principles of Public Life: selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty and leadership
  - good questioning skills;
  - the ability to attend any meetings that are necessary for the conduct of business associated with the local Standards regime; and
  - experience of assessing people's conduct.
9. Applications received are assessed by the Selection Panel and shortlisted candidates are invited to attend interview at Guildhall. Following interview, details of the recommended candidate are provided to the Standards Committee and, if approved, will then be submitted to the Court of Common Council for further approval.

### **Options**

10. The Committee must now take a decision as to how it wishes to proceed following the recent resignation of Mark Greenburgh as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee.
11. The Committee may wish to leave the position vacant for a period of time or to instruct the Town Clerk to proceed immediately with appointment following the agreed process set out above.

12. The Standards Committee have recently commented on the constitution of the Selection Panel which was last revised with the agreement of the Court of Common Council in May 2014 and currently includes the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen (or their representatives).
13. The Committee felt that it may be beneficial to include a Co-opted Member on the Selection Panel in future and suggested that the Co-opted Member might be asked to be in attendance as opposed to forming part of the Panel itself so as to avoid any delays in terms of reference back to the Court of Common Council on this matter. Members are therefore also asked to comment on the composition of the Selection Panel at this stage.

## **Conclusion**

15. Members are asked to note the recommended appointment process for a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee to for an initial term of office expiring in December 2021. The Committee are requested to decide on the timing of the advertising campaign and also on the future composition of the Selection Panel.

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