

Committee: Standards Committee	Date: 29 th November 2013
Subject: Co-opted Members – Appointments	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
<u>Summary</u>	
<p>The purpose of this report is for the Standards Committee to note the recommendations of the Selection Panel in respect of appointments to the three vacancies for Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee. The recommended appointments will be submitted to the Court of Common Council for approval on 5th December 2013.</p> <p>Details about the recommended candidates are set out below.</p>	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
<p>Members are asked to note the recommended appointments for two Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee and to note that there is one remaining vacancy for a Co-opted Member.</p>	

Main Report

1. This report sets out the details of two recommended Co-opted Member appointments to 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.
4. In line with the agreed process for appointing Co-opted Member, namely that vacancies must be advertised, candidates must submit an application and recommended appointments, submitted by an Selection Panel, must be approved by a majority of members of the Court of Common Council, an appointment process commenced in September and concluded in late October.

Background to the current position

5. Three vacancies for Co-opted Members of the Committee have arisen over recent months following expiry of the terms of office of Dr Colin Kolbert, Howard Lederman and Felicity Lusk.
6. The appointment process commenced on 6th September 2013, with a second recruitment campaign commencing on 4th October 2013 as a result of limited public interest. Advertisements about the role and the vacant positions were placed on the Guardian Online, Universal Jobmatch, the City AM (on-line) and the City of London Corporation's webpages.
7. For the purposes of these appointments, a Selection Panel was established by the Court in November 2000 comprising the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, or their representatives. The Panel was convened in October to consider the four valid applications that had been received at the conclusion of the advertising campaign. The Panel also considered the re-appointment of Felicity Lusk for a further term of office to expire in December 2017.
8. The applicants were 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
 - a legal background (whilst useful this is not essential).
9. The recommended appointments and details of each candidate are detailed below and will be submitted to the Court of Common Council for approval on 5th December 2013.

Recommended appointments

10. As above, the Selection Panel has recommended the following appointments:

10 (a) Judith Barnes

Judith Barnes has practised as a company/commercial lawyer for over ten years and is currently in charge of her own practice. The Appointment Panel was particularly impressed by both her legal and business experience as well

as her knowledge of the City which was gained whilst practising as a solicitor whilst she was a partner in Jaques & Lewis. Ms Barnes previously served as a councillor for twelve years and demonstrated a sound understanding of the role and operations of the City of London Corporation. Ms Barnes' understanding and practical experience of dealing with evidence was demonstrated by her role as a Senior Policy Officer at the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) between 2005/12.

10 (b) Felicity Lusk (re-appointment)

Ms Felicity Lusk has been a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee since 15th July 2009 and, this Committee has benefited greatly from the expertise and service that she has rendered to the Committee over the last four years.

Ms Lusk,

- has over 20 years' experience as a teacher and, since 1997, as Headmistress of Oxford High School
- has served on numerous bodies at national, regional and local level in a range of fields including education and the arts
- has served as a Court Member at Oxford Brookes University
- was an elected Member at the London Borough of Enfield from 1990 – 94
- served as one of the Independent Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama between 2000 and 2009.

In advance of the expiry of her term of office in September 2013, Ms Lusk expressed her commitment to further supporting the work of the Committee. In light of her experience and knowledge, the Selection Panel has recommended Ms Lusk's re-appointment for a further term of office to expire in December 2017.

11. Following the selection process there remains one outstanding vacancy for a Co-opted Member on the Standards Committee and this Committee is asked to note the vacancy and comment on the options for appointing a further Co-opted Member.
12. It is proposed that, following consideration by the Court of Common Council on 5th December 2013, the newly appointed Co-opted Members will be invited to attend (where necessary) a detailed induction with the Town Clerk and the Comptroller and City Solicitor at the earliest opportunity. They will then be invited to attend all future meetings of the Committee as of 31st January 2014.

Outstanding vacancy

13. As above, following the selection process there remains one outstanding vacancy for a Co-opted Member on the Standards Committee. The Committee is asked to note the vacancy and comment on the options for appointing a further Co-opted Member.

Conclusion

14. Members are asked to note the recommended appointments of two Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee, including the re-appointment of one former Co-opted Member whose term of office concluded in September 2013. The Committee is further asked to note that there is one remaining vacancy for a Co-opted Member on the Standards Committee and Members are invited to comment on the implications for the Committee and the options for appointing to the vacancy in the future.

Appendices - None.

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