

Committee:	Date:
Standards Committee	16 th May 2014
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Summary	
<p>In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), this report provides Members with the details of three decisions taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, since the Committee's meeting on 16th May 2014.</p> <p>Recommendation: -</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. Standing Order no. 41(a) provides a mechanism for decisions to be taken between scheduled meetings of the Standards Committee, where in the opinion of the Town Clerk, it is urgently necessary for a decision to be made. Standing Order No. 41(b) provides a mechanism for decisions to be taken between scheduled meetings of the Standards Committee, where the Committee has delegated power to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to make a decision.

Decisions Taken Between Meetings (Delegated Authority)

2. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), decisions have been taken in respect of the following matters (proposed revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct and the appointment of two Co-opted Members), since the last meeting of the Standards Committee on 16th May 2014:-
 - (i) Standards Committee- Revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct (approved on 9th July 2014);
 - (ii) Standards Committee- Revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct (approved on 6th October 2014); and
 - (iii) Recommended Appointments - Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee (approved on 1st September 2014).

Revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct

3. At the Committee's meeting on the 16th May 2014, Members considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and the Comptroller and City Solicitor regarding proposed amendments to the Members' Code of Conduct (disclosable interests) and the introduction of a mandatory registration regime for gifts and hospitality. The Committee had previously considered the matter on 31st January but comments were thereafter raised by the Policy and Resources Committee, due to that Committee's responsibility for monitoring the Corporation's overall governance arrangements, and the Committee was therefore asked to reconsider the proposed revisions. At the Committee's meeting on 16th May, delegated authority was granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, to approve the final wording of the revised Code of Conduct so that the new requirements could be submitted to the meeting of the Court of Common Council on 24th July 2014.
4. At the meeting of the Court of Common Council on 24th July 2014 there was considerable debate and a number of views were put forward by Members. It was therefore agreed that further consideration should be given to the terms of the draft Code. Consequently, all Members of the Court were invited to attend a special meeting of the Standards Committee on 11th September 2014, to enable Members to discuss the terms of the draft.
5. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), delegated authority was granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee on 11th September 2014, to approve the final wording of the revised Code of Conduct so that the new requirements could be submitted to the meeting of the Court of Common Council for approval on 16th October 2014.
6. Following the meeting on 11th September 2014 a revised version of the Code of Conduct was circulated electronically to all Members for further comment. A number of comments were received and those views were taken into account during the drafting of the final version of the Members' Code of Conduct which was approved in accordance with Standing Order 41(b) on 6th October 2014.

Reason for urgency

7. As the Standards Committee was not originally scheduled to meet until the 24th October, delegated authority to approve revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct was granted in May and September 2014 to ensure that the new requirements were approved and implemented without on-going delay.

Recommended Appointments - Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee.

8. At the meeting of the Standards Committee on 16th May 2014, delegated authority was granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee, to consider the Appointment and Selection Panel's recommendations in respect of the appointment of two Co-opted Members to serve on the Standards Committee. As the Selection Panel's interviews were scheduled to take place on 15th July 2014 and the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was not expected to take place until October, the Committee delegated authority so that the appointments could be considered by the Court of Common Council in September, without any further delay.
9. Following an appointment exercise in autumn 2013 to appoint to three vacancies for Co-opted Members of the Committee - as a result of the completion of the terms of office of Dr Colin Kolbert, Howard Lederman and Felicity Lusk - Judith Barnes was appointed and Felicity Lusk was reappointed by the Court in November 2013. As a further vacancy arose in the room of Mr Alan Graham, following the expiry of his term of office in March 2014, the Committee had two vacancies.
10. The recruitment and selection process commenced in December 2013 and, despite numerous delays to convening a Selection Panel, three valid applications were received and considered by Members on 15th July 2014. On the basis of the candidates' experience and their understanding about the work of the City Corporation and the role of its elected Members, the Panel recommended that Mr Mark Greenburgh and Mr Dan Large be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee as Co-opted Members.
11. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), the Committee endorsed the Selection Panel's recommendation that both Mr Mark Greenburgh and Mr Dan Large be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee as Co-opted Members (each for a four-year term expiring in December 2018), ahead of approval by the Court of Common Council on 11th September 2014.

Reason for urgency

12. As there had already been significant delay to progressing the appointments and the Committee was not scheduled to meet until after the next meeting of the Court of Common Council on 11th September 2014, the decision was taken in accordance with the City Corporation's urgency procedures to ensure that the recommended appointments were submitted to the Court of Common Council for approval without further delay.

Conclusion

13. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), Members are asked to note the decisions taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and

Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee since the Committee's meeting on 16th May 2014.

Background Papers:

- Minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee on 16th May 2014 and 11th September 2014.

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