

Committee: Standards Committee	Date: 26 January 2018
Subject: Co-opted Members – Appointments	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Standards Committee to consider the reappointment of Judith Barnes as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee following the expiry of her previous term of office in December 2017. A recommendation for reappointment would be required to be submitted to the Court of Common Council for approval on 8 March 2018.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider recommending the Court of Common Council to reappoint Judith Barnes as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee for a second and final 4-year term of office expiring in March 2022.

Main Report

1. This report sets out the details of the proposed reappointment of Judith Barnes as a Co-opted Member of 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.

Background to the current position

4. Following the expiry of Judith Barnes previous 4-year term of office in December 2017, there are currently two vacancies for Co-opted Members of the Committee.

5. Prospective Co-opted Members are 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).

Recommended appointments

6. Following the expiry of her previous 4-year term of office in December 2017, Judith Barnes has confirmed her willingness to serve a further term. As the Committee's terms of reference provide for a maximum of eight years' membership, any reappointment would be for a maximum of a further 4-year period.
7. Judith Barnes practised as a company commercial lawyer for over twenty years, including seven years in charge of her own practice, with both legal and business experience as well as knowledge of the City which was gained whilst practising as a solicitor whilst she was a partner in Jaques & Lewis (now Eversheds). 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 Senior Policy Officer at the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPPC) between 2005/12.
8. If the Committee decide to recommend the reappointment of Judith Barnes there remains one outstanding vacancy for a Co-opted Member on the Standards Committee and this Committee are asked to note the vacancy and comment on the options for appointing a further Co-opted Member.
9. A recommendation by the Standards Committee to reappoint Judith Barnes would then be submitted to the Court of Common Council for its approval on 8 March 2018. Subject to the approval of the Court of Common Council the Co-opted Member would then be invited to attend all future meetings of the Committee.

Conclusion

10. Members are asked to consider recommending the Court of Common Council to reappoint Judith Barnes as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee for a second and final 4-year term of office expiring in March 2022.

Appendices - None.

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