

## Report – Chairman of the Standards Committee

### Report of Urgent Action Taken: Reappointment of Co-opted Member

*To be presented on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN**

1. We hereby report action taken under urgency procedures concerning the appointment of Judith Barnes as a co-opted Member of the Standards Committee. This decision was taken in view of the pressing need to ensure that an adequate number of co-opted Members were available to be present at meetings of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees.
2. The composition of the Standards Committee provides for four co-opted Members. Following the expiry of Judith Barnes' previous four-year term of office in December 2017, there were two vacancies for co-opted Members on the Committee (the other vacancy being more long-standing).
3. Recently, the non-availability of one of the two current co-opted Members (who has been out of the UK on a long-term basis) had meant that the Committee and its Assessments Sub-Committee had been reliant on only one co-opted Member to attend meetings. Because of illness, the one co-opted member available was unable to attend the Standards Committee meeting on 26 January, which meant that the meeting was inquorate.
4. At that meeting, the Standards Committee considered the proposed reappointment of Judith Barnes, previously appointed as a co-opted Member for a four-year term of office expiring in December 2017, who had expressed a wish to be reappointed as a co-opted Member and could serve for a second and final four-year term of office.
5. It was the unanimous view of those Members present at the inquorate meeting that the Court of Common Council be recommended to reappoint Judith Barnes as a co-opted member of the Standards Committee for a second and final four-year term of office.
6. As the meeting was inquorate, the Standards Committee could not formally confirm this decision at the time and its next scheduled meeting was not until May 2018. The recommended reappointment of Judith Barnes as a co-opted member of that Committee would not therefore be considered by the Court of Common Council until its meeting in June.

7. In view of the pressing need to ensure that an adequate number of co-opted Members was available to be present at meetings of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees, an urgent decision was required to enable the reappointment to be considered and approved at the earliest opportunity. This matter was particularly relevant given the requirement to schedule two Assessment Sub-Committee meetings, both of which required a co-opted Member to make them quorate.
8. The inquorate meeting therefore recommended that this matter be progressed under the provisions of Standing Order No. 41(a), to ensure that the proposed reappointment could then be formalised under Standing Order No. 19 as soon as possible.
9. The Town Clerk consequently approved the inquorate Standards Committee request for urgent decision under Standing Order No. 41(a) and the formal reappointment of Judith Barnes as a co-opted member of the Standards Committee for a second and final four-year term of office (expiring February 2022) under Standing Order No. 19.

All of which we submit to the judgment of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge**  
Chairman, Standards Committee