

Report of the Standards Committee

Appointment of Co-opted Members

To be presented on Thursday, 5th December 2019

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

SUMMARY

The Standards Committee currently comprises sixteen Members, four of whom are co-opted. Co-opted Members must not be Members of the Court of Common Council or employees of the City Corporation. Following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, Co-opted Members are no longer a statutory requirement and have no formal vote. The City of London Corporation has, however, agreed to the inclusion of Co-opted Members on the Committee to maximise the breadth of knowledge and experience available.

There is currently one co-opted member vacancy on the Standards Committee, in the room of Mark Greenburgh. However, on this occasion, the appointment panel were of the view that two candidates (The Very Revd. Dr. David Ison and Elizabeth Walters) interviewed extremely well, and that both would be an asset to the Standards Committee in terms of the breadth and relevance of their knowledge and experience. With this in mind, they are proposing a temporary expansion of the Standards Committee (from a total of 16 to 17 Members and a total of five as opposed to four Co-optees) to allow for both to be appointed. This proposal has also been considered and approved by the Policy and Resources Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

1. We **recommend** that the Selection Panel's recommendation that both The Very Revd. Dr. David Ison and Elizabeth Walters be appointed to serve as Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee (one for an term of 2 years to complete the balance of Mr Greenburgh's term of office, expiring in December 2021 and the other for an initial term of office of 3 years, expiring in December 2022) be approved. It should be noted that, thereafter, both candidates would be eligible for re-appointment for a further, full, four-year term.
2. We also **recommend** the temporary expansion of the size of the Standards Committee from 16 to 17 Members to accommodate a total of five as opposed to four Co-opted Members for a period of a maximum of 3 years, until December 2022, at which point the terms of office of two of the Committee's existing Co-opted Members will expire and will not be renewable.

MAIN REPORT

1. 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.
2. The Standards Committee currently comprises sixteen Members, four of whom are Co-opted Members and must be independent from the City Corporation (i.e. must not be members of the Court of Common Council or employees of the City Corporation). Following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, Co-opted Members are no longer a statutory requirement and no longer have a formal vote. The City of London Corporation has, however, approved the continued inclusion of Co-opted Members on the Standards Committee to maximise the breadth of knowledge and experience on the Committee. This position remained unchanged following the review of the Standards framework carried out in 2017/18. Co-opted Members are entirely separate from the three statutory "Independent Persons" appointed under the Localism Act 2011 who must be consulted in relation to any investigation, but who are not formal members of the Committee.
3. A vacancy for one Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee first arose in March 2019 following the decision of Mark Greenburgh to step down from the Committee with immediate effect.
4. The appointment process for his replacement was commenced in May 2019. A total of five applications were received and reviewed by the appointment 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. For the first time, one of the Standards Committee's existing Co-optees also joined the Selection Panel as an observer. The Co-opted Member contributed to the deliberations following interviews and helped feed into questions ahead of the interview process.
5. Following assessment by the Panel, three candidates were shortlisted and invited to attend interview with one candidate subsequently withdrawing from the process before interviewing due to the time pressures of other roles. Two candidates were therefore interviewed by the Panel in September 2019.
6. 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
 - experience of assessing people's conduct.
7. The Panel were unanimously of the view that, on this occasion, both of the candidates interviewed were particularly strong and that both would be a great asset to the Standards Committee in terms of the breadth and relevance of their knowledge and experience. The Co-opted Member concurred with this view.
 8. The purpose of this report is, therefore, to seek approval to the recommendation of the Selection Panel – that both candidates (The Very Revd. Dr. David Ison and Elizabeth Walters) be appointed as Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee and that the composition of the Standards Committee be temporarily expanded to accommodate this.
 9. The terms of office of two of the three existing Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee will expire in December 2022. Neither of the two are eligible for further re-appointment in accordance with the Standards Committee's current rules around composition which state that "*none of the appointed shall serve on the Committee for more than eight years*". A temporary expansion to accommodate both candidates on this occasion would therefore be required to run until December 2022 at the latest. This proposal has the approval of both your Standards Committee and Policy and Resources Committee.
 10. It is worth noting that previous recruitment campaigns have resulted in the Panel being unable to recommend any candidates for appointment. To lose a candidate of particularly high quality on this occasion would therefore be regrettable. An additional Co-opted Member, even for a short period of time, would also help to strengthen the independent element of the Standards Committee's work and would provide a larger pool to draw from in terms of Dispensations, Assessment and Hearing Sub Committees where the views of a Co-opted Member are taken account of.
 11. **The Very Revd. Dr. David Ison** currently serves as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. He has always had an interest in politics and has a great affection for the City.

He has been involved with not only developing good practice locally, but also with national work in the Church of England on improving cathedral governance. Prior to his post in the City, David lived in Bradford where he was not only Dean of Bradford Cathedral but also a member of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's Standards Committee and, in 2010, its Chair, undertaking associated training and casework.

12. **Elizabeth Walters** has spent over 30 years of her life in the ‘Square Mile’ – first as a pupil at City of London School for Girls and subsequently as a solicitor.

Elizabeth is a corporate partner of over 20 years at DLA Piper. Throughout her career she has played a leading role in promoting good governance in her places of work and for her clients where she has advised boards extensively on governance and conduct issues and has put in place governance and conduct rules designed to ensure compliance. Elizabeth has lectured on governance and written bribery policies as well as Codes of Conduct for public listed companies addressing a wide range of issues. She has a deep understanding of entities operating in the public eye, the importance of complying with regulatory frameworks and codes of conduct and, in particular, balancing the need for confidentiality against public disclosure requirements and the potential consequences of failing to do so.

13. Your Standards Committee are pleased to endorse the Selection Panel’s **recommendation** that both The Very Revd. Dr. David Ison and Elizabeth Walters be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee as Co-opted Members (one for an term of 2 years to complete the balance of Mr Greenburgh’s term of office, expiring in December 2021 and the other for an initial term of office of 3 years, expiring in December 2022) be approved. It should be noted that, thereafter, both candidates would be eligible for re-appointment for a further, full, four-year term. This proposal has the backing of your Policy and Resources Committee.

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

DATED this 4th day of October 2019.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Ann Holmes,
Chairman of the Standards Committee