

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of:	ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE
Date of Meeting:	21 OCTOBER 2019
Subject:	INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBERS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Wards affected:	N/A

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 Following changes to the City Council's constitution the membership of Standards Committee was changed to ensure a more representative makeup. As such the Committee is now made up of 6 City Council Councillors (2 from each of the largest political parties represented on the City Council) 1 from each of the Parish Councils and 6 independent lay members (up from 3).
- 1.2 The recruitment process has been undertaken to fill these new posts.
- 1.3 That process has now been completed and the following appointees are proposed.

2. Decision(s) recommended:

- 2.1 That the Council's Business Management Committee recommends to City Council that the following be appointed to the Standards Committee as follows:

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Stephen Atkinson	6 November 2019 – 31 October 2023
Alastair Cowan	6 November 2019 – 31 October 2023
Mohammed Khan	6 November 2019 – 31 October 2023

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3. Relevant background/chronology of key events.

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 (the Act) places local authorities under a statutory duty to *"promote and maintain a high standard of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members if the authority"*

- 3.2 The Act also provides that local authorities have in place arrangements by which allegations can be investigated and where decisions on allegations can be made.
- 3.3 Whilst the Act does not prescribe the process by which allegations can be made nor how decisions on allegations are made, Birmingham City Council opted for a Standards Committee model and that Committee keeps those arrangements under constant review. Following a consultation, it was recommended that the number of lay members of the Standards Committee be increased from three to six.
- 3.4 Consequently, a recruitment panel was established, comprising Cllrs Deidre Alden Julie Johnson, and Paul Tilsley, with Peter Wiseman (Chair of the Standards Committee) as chair.
- 3.5 During the four-week recruitment campaign (during May 2019), adverts were placed with Birmingham Post and Mail, and the Birmingham.gov.uk/jobs websites. Information was also flagged on the council's website at www.birmingham.gov.uk/irp. Twitter was also used.
- 3.6 The interview panel shortlisted and interviewed four candidates. The highest scoring candidates were selected and were recommended for appointment to the Standards Committee until October 2023.

Signature:

Chief Officer:

Robert Connelly, Acting Assistant Director Governance