Council	Agenda Item 37
21 October 2010	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:		**Appointment of Independent Members to Standards Committee**
Date of Meeting:		**21 October 2010**
Report of:		**Acting Director of Strategy & Governance**
Contact Officer:	**Name:**	**Elizabeth Culbert** **Tel: 29-1515**
	E-mail:	**elizabeth.culbert@brighton-hove.gov.uk**
Wards Affected:	**All**	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report seeks Council's approval to the appointment of two new independent members to the Standards Committee following the resignation of Helen Scott after seven years on the Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Council approves the appointments of Peter Rose and Paul Cecil as independent members of the Standards Committee.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Under the Local Authorities (Standards Committees) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations), the Council is required to ensure that at 25% of the members of its Standards Committee are independent members. The Regulations also require that any appointment is approved by full Council.

3.2 A vacancy has arisen on the Standards Committee following the resignation of Helen Scott who has served as an independent member since November 2003. In order to ensure that the required numbers of independent members are always available to the Committee, it is proposed to appoint two new independent members. This will improve the flexibility of the Committee in terms of meeting availability so that issues are dealt with as quickly as possible.

3.3 The vacant posts were advertised in accordance with the Regulations and interviews were conducted over two days by a panel comprising elected members, the Monitoring Officer and chaired by the independent Chairman of the Committee Mike Wilkinson.

3.4 Subject to Council approval, Peter Rose and Paul Cecil have been appointed to the vacant posts.

3.5 Peter Rose brings an immense amount of experience to the Standards Committee, having been Press Secretary for the Committee on Standards in

Public Life (the Nolan Committee) where he advised the chairman and Committee members on the presentation of all aspects of the Committee's work and drafted significant parts of the Committee's reports.

3.6 Paul Cecil also comes to the Committee with a great deal of relevant experience, having been involved in establishing the Research Ethics and the Research Governance Committees at the University of Brighton. He has worked in a number of regulatory and assurance roles, most recently as Head of Projects and Programme Innovation at the University of Sussex.

3.7 Both candidates have accepted the positions subject to Council approval.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The recruitment process has followed the requirements of the relevant Regulations, including coming to Council for approval.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The independent members are unpaid, expenses are reimbursed. There are no other financial implications arising from this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley Date: 05.10.10

Legal Implications:

5.2 The legal framework for the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee is set out in the report. The recruitment has complied with the advertising and other procedural requirements, including seeking approval from the majority of members of the authority.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 05.10.10

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no specific sustainability implications arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 There are no specific risk or opportunity management implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 There are no specific corporate/citywide implications arising from this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:
None

Documents in Members' Rooms
None