

Item No. 85.2	Classification: Open	Date: 30 April 2003	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Recruitment Of Two Independent Members To Standards Committee	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All Wards	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Assembly be recommended to appoint Mr Ian Powe and Sir Keith Morris to serve as independent voting Members for three years each.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Independent members, who are voting members, must make up at least 25% of the Standards Committee's total membership. The Chair of the Standards Committee is elected from among the independent members at the first meeting of the Committee in each Municipal Year. Council Assembly at their meeting held on 26th February 2003 agreed to increase the number of independent voting members on the committee from three to four. Standards Committee have therefore recommended the appointment of two independent members.
3. The Standards Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday 19th March 2003 and selected a Panel of five members to interview five candidates who applied to serve as independent members on the Committee.
4. The Panel met on Wednesday 9th April 2003 and agreed to nominate two out of four candidates who attended the interview. The two successful candidates have been informed that their appointment is subject to approval by the full Council Assembly. A short resume of the two candidates follows: -

5. CAPTAIN IAN POWE

- Chairman of Fielding Street Residents' Association since 1989
- Former Chairman of Lewisham & Guys Mental Health NHS Trust with a personal involvement in strategic and frontline partnership issues with the London Borough of Southwark
- Former Chairman of Southwark's Local Democracy Commission

Ian Powe is a retired naval captain. He has held senior positions within Whitehall and, after leaving the Royal Navy, as Chief Executive of the Gas Consumers Council. He is a former Churchwarden of St Paul's, Knightsbridge and is a Voluntary River Thames Warden for Southwark. He has lived in Southwark for 26 years and has been active in successful campaigns to improve and maintain the quality of life for local residents. He is currently the Chair of the Standards Committee.

6. SIR KEITH MORRIS

- Consultant and adviser to several companies on ethical issues
- 35 years experience in the Diplomatic Service working for the British Government
- Director General, British Trade Development, Italy.
- Ambassador to Columbia
- Head of Personnel Policy Department (1995 - 2001)
- Chairman of the Diplomatic Appeals Board

Sir Keith Morris has been involved in many voluntary activities since retiring from the diplomatic service. He has vast knowledge in both the private and public sector. He did his national service in the Royal Navy and spent a year in the 1980s at the Royal College of Defence Studies.

7. The current membership of the Committee includes three independent Members, appointed in accordance with The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001. The Constitutional meeting of Council Assembly on 29 May 2002 agreed that the terms of office of each member would be for three years with one member retiring each year and members serving a maximum of two terms.

8. The Constitutional Council meeting appointed the current independent members with initial terms of office as follows:

Mr Ian Powe – one year (from May 2002 to May 2003);
Mr Barry Albin-Dyer – two years (from May 2002 to May 2004); and
Ms Jean Sackur - three years (From May 2002 to May 2005)

9. All future appointments will be for a period of three years. Thus if Council Assembly agrees to the two nominations then the terms of office will now be as follows: -

Mr Barry Albin-Dyer – one year (until May 2004)
Ms Jean Sackur – two years (until May 2005)
Mr Ian Powe – three years (from May 2003 to May 2006) and
Sir Keith Morris – three years (from May 2003 to May 2006)

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Legal Issues

10. Section 53(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that a Standards Committee of a London borough council must include at least two members of the authority and at least one person who is not a member or an officer of the authority or any other relevant authority. The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 specify that an authority must ensure that, where its Standards Committee has more than three members, at least 25% are independent members.

11. The Regulations specify that a person may not be appointed as an independent member of a standards committee unless the appointment is:

- approved by a majority of the members of the authority;
- advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the authority;

- of a person who has submitted an application to the authority;
- of a person who has not within the period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment been a member of the authority; and
- of a person who is not a relative or close friend of a member or officer of the authority

12. The regulations stipulate that an independent member should be a person:

- who has not within the period of five years immediately preceding the date of their appointment been a Member of the authority;
- who is not a relative or close friend of a Member or Officer of the authority;
- who is not a Member or Officer of any other local authority; and
- who has no criminal convictions

Resource Implications

13. Expenditure relating to recruitment can be contained within current budgets.

Equal Opportunities Implications

14. Applications for the position of independent member are open to all sectors of the community on the basis of the following criteria:

- an independent and analytical mind;
- tact and good interpersonal skills;
- ability to give clear and reasoned advice; and
- an understanding of issues affecting inner-city areas like Southwark

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Standards Committee agenda and Minutes Files	Constitutional Support Services, Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road SE5 8UB	Tina Akumanyi 020 7525 7225
National Standards Board Regulations	www.Standardsboard.com	Internet

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Constitutional Support Manager (Scrutiny)	
Report Author	Tina Akumanyi, Constitutional Support Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	16.04.03	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	
Executive Member	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services		