

# SC/005/10

**Committee** Standards Committee

**Date** 29 April 2010

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## **Process for the recruitment of new independent members**

### 1. Purpose of the Report

To advise Members of the requirements for recruitment of new Members and to agree the details of the recruitment process.

### 2. Background

The guidance provided by Standards for England indicates “Independent members are important in helping increase public confidence in local government. They provide a clear signal that the standards committee acts fairly and impartially. Independent members also bring a wider perspective from their outside experiences. There is no limit to the number of independent members you can have on your standards committee. Indeed some authorities may wish to have a majority of independent members. Your authority decides how to select independent members and how long an independent member should sit on the committee. We recommend that you set a fixed period of four years. This will be long enough for them to gain an understanding of the committee, the authority and its workings, but not so long that they could be perceived as losing their independence.”

Professor Atkinson has been an independent member of the Committee since there was a requirement for independent members and it has been agreed that his tenure will cease in July 2010. Accordingly a new independent member must be recruited.

### 3. Proposal

It is proposed to advertise in similar form to that adopted on the last occasion when independent members were recruited. A copy of the proposed advertisement is attached as annexe 1. It is suggested that this should be advertised locally and on the internet. A role profile was developed for the last occasion and this has been amended and is attached as annexe 2. It is proposed that applicants should be short listed in accordance with the criteria in the profile by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, a governance officer and an independent member and that an interview panel be convened consisting of those mentioned above together with an elected

member of the committee. At the conclusion of the process the successful candidate will be recommended to full Council as the new independent member.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the process is commenced to ensure that an additional independent member is available as close as possible to the time when Professor Atkinson will no longer be available as a committee member.