1. **Summary**

This report recommends the appointment of Hannah Le Vay and Matthew Hill as members of the Standards Committee.

2. **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to ensure that vacant independent member places on the Council’s Standards Committee are filled.

3. **Recommendation**

That Matthew Hill and Hannah Le Vay be appointed to serve as independent members of the Standards Committee in addition to Gill Butler, Leslie Thomas, David Roper-Newman and Cathy Sullivan who have served as independent members of the Committee to date.

4. **Background**

4.1 On June 28 2012, the Council considered a report which dealt with proposed amendments to the Council’s Constitution largely as a result of the implementation of the Localism Act 2011. On that date, among other things the Council resolved that the Standards Committee should consist of 12 members, 6 of whom should be councillors and 6 independent members.

4.2 The composition of the Committee now reflects the make up of the Committee prior to the changes introduced by the Localism Act. However, there has been one long standing vacancy for an independent member and a further vacancy was created on the appointment of Sally Hawkins, (who previously chaired the Committee), to fulfil the statutory role of Independent Person, who must be consulted if it is proposed that action be taken by the Standards Committee in relation to an allegation of breach of the Code of Conduct. As such, she is not and cannot by law be, a member of the Committee.
4.3 Though there is no longer any formal requirement to do so, the Council placed an advert on its website inviting people to apply to be appointed as an independent member on the Standards Committee. Two candidates were interviewed by Councillor Mallory, with the assistance of the Monitoring Officer. Both candidates are now recommended for appointment to the Committee.

4.4 Brief details of the 2 candidates appears at Appendix 1.

5. Financial implications

Co-optees on the Standards Committee receive an allowance of £600 per annum. This amount can be contained within existing budgets.

6. Legal implications

Appointments to Committees are a matter for full Council. These appointments will complete the complement on the Standards Committee. The changes brought in by the Localism Act 2011 in respect of the ethical framework have been the subject of a full report to Council. The most significant one in this context is that the independent members of the Standards Committee will no longer have formal voting rights, as the special provisions allowing this have been repealed.

7. Equalities implications

There are no specific implications, though members are reminded of their duty to have regard to their duty eliminate unlawful discrimination harassment and victimisation of those with protected characteristics. They are also under a duty to advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and to foster good relations between those groups. The protected characteristics are age, race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

8. Crime and Disorder implications

The entire ethical framework is designed to promote behaviour of the highest standard, and the Standards Committee has a statutory duty to promote this.

9. Human Rights implications

There are no particular implications associated with this report.
APPENDIX 1

HANNAH LE VAY

Hannah Le Vay is a local resident who originated from Wales and studied Classics at UCL. She is a qualified ACCA and CIPFA accountant. She has over 20 years experience in local authority corporate finance. She has worked in partnership with a number of public sector organisations, and has been a school governor as well as an attendee at Lewisham Adult Education Centres.

MATTHEW HILL

Matthew Hill is a Deptford resident who has lived in the borough for over 5 years. He obtained a first class degree in English Literature from Exeter University in 2003. He is a qualified financial advisor and is a volunteer mentor for ex-offenders in Lewisham.