

STANDARDS COMMITTEE		
Report Title	INDEPENDENT PERSON APPOINTMENTS	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	HEAD OF LAW	
Class	Part 1 – For Information	Date: 26 March 2014

As the Committee will recall under changes introduced by the Localism Act 2011 there is a requirement for local authorities to appoint at least one independent person whose views are to be sought and then taken into account by the authority before it makes a decision on an allegation that has been investigated.

The Committee is asked to note that Erica Pinnear and Wendy Innes have been appointed to act as Independent Person to assist the Council in the investigation of complaints under the Council's Member Code of Conduct. Brief details of the Independent Persons appear below.

Erica Pinnear

Erica lives in Bromley and has a B.A. Certificate in Education from Goldsmiths as well as an MBA in Education from London South Bank University. She held various teaching posts in Bromley for 25 years before being appointed to the position of head teacher at Prendergast School in 1998, a position she held until 2008 when she was appointed as Executive Headteacher. Though working in Lewisham for the last 15 years, she never been a Lewisham Council employee. Throughout her professional life she has conducted a number of sensitive investigative and disciplinary procedures and hearings. She also served on the Council of Queen Mary College of London University. Having retired recently, she serves as a Chair of Governors at a Lewisham primary School. Erica has been granted the Freedom of Lewisham.

Wendy Innes

Wendy is based in Newcastle upon Tyne. She has an M.A. in Swedish Studies and is a solicitor with extensive experience of advising North Tyneside Council where she was employed for 17 years until 2013, most recently as head of the legal service and deputy monitoring officer there. Before that she worked for 5 years in a commercial legal firm. North Tyneside operates a directly elected mayoral system like Lewisham and Wendy is very familiar with the new ethical framework under the Localism Act, has conducted two independent investigations into allegations of breach of the Member Code of conduct in North Tyneside and presented reports about the investigations to their Standards Committee.