

**MEETING: 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

---

**EXTENSION OF TERM OF OFFICE – MR. G. COOK**

---

**REPORT OF THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

---

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider an extension to the existing term of office of Mr. G. Cook, Chairman of the Governance Committee, until such time as the arrangements in respect of the Standards regime are reviewed.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Coalition Government is making proposals to overhaul the Standards regime.
- 2.2 Under the current arrangements, at least 25% of the Members of the Governance Committee must be independent members. In making appointments to the Committee the Authority is required to have regard to guidance from Standards for England. The guidance provides that independent members should serve no more than a total of eight years after which new Members should be recruited. Ordinarily, appointments to the Committee are made at the Annual Meeting, however, Mr Geoff Cook, the Chairman of the Committee, will have served in excess of eight years by the next Annual Meeting in June. A number of Authorities have expressed concern that, given the current uncertainty regarding the future of the Standards regime, it may be preferable to retain those who had been trained and understand their role rather than try to recruit, appoint and train new Members for what may be a very short term.
- 2.3 Standards for England have advised that, in the circumstances and as long as the original appointment was carried out in accordance with the correct legal requirements at the time, an Authority can extend the term of appointment for a further period. However, this can only be done during the term of office of an existing independent member. Once the independent member's term has expired, the full recruitment procedures must be followed again.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.4. In the circumstances, it is therefore recommended that the Authority agrees to extend the existing term of office of Mr. G. Cook until such time as the Authority reviews its arrangements in respect of the standards regime, in the light of the Coalition Government's proposals.

