

London Borough of Islington
Standards Committee – 11th January 2005

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 11th January 2005.

Present: Father Jim Kennedy, John Gilbert, Matthew Saunders and Councillors Derek Sawyer and Terry Stacy

Father Jim Kennedy in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Jo Michie.

2. DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

Matthews Saunders substituting for Jo Michie.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item 3)

None.

Father Jim Kennedy advised the meeting that he had been appointed the Roman Catholic Dean for Islington. The Committee offered their congratulations on his appointment.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2004 be confirmed and the Chair authorised to sign them.

5. STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That FOI requests and compliance within statutory deadlines be monitored as part of these indicators.

The Monitoring Officer advised that two councillors had been referred to the Standards Board since the report was written and the Board had advised that they would not be investigating the matter.

6. SECTION 66 REGULATIONS – PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS (Item 6)

RESOLVED:

That the procedure for local investigations set out in Appendix 1 in paragraph 3.3.1 of the report be agreed.

7. INDEMNITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Corporate Services Committee be advised that the Standards Committee view was that indemnity cover should not be sought for personal financial liability of either member or officer unless it could be provided by way of an insurance policy.

(2) Officers monitor the insurance situation to see if cover can be provided by companies in the future.

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The first line of paragraph 3.4 of the report was amended to read “following referral by this Committee,”

(3) Noted that the existing policy will need to be rewritten to include the requirement to repay monies if the member is found guilty of or admits breaking the code.

8. PUBLICITY AND PROFILE OF THE COMMITTEE (Item 8)

RESOLVED:

(1) The Monitoring Officer submit a report to the next meeting setting out her role and responsibilities on the Committee, together with a list of possible additional areas the Committee might be interested in looking at. This should include details of paper issued by the Audit Commission on roles and responsibilities for Standards Committees.

(2) That the Monitoring Officer submit a report to the next meeting giving guidance on the ethical issues arising from the forthcoming election.

(3) Officers from Communications ensure that a web page is created for the Committee with appropriate links to other organisations, information leaflets are drafted which clearly outline what the Committee can and cannot do and who to contact for information and that appropriate articles appear in Councilwide and the residents newsletter to outline the work and role of the Committee.

9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

CHAIR

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