



Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	27 Jan. 2009	5	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
-----------------------	--------	------------

Subject: STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS

1. Synopsis

This report sets out a series of indicators which will help give members an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

2. Recommendation

That the Committee consider the indicators for the fourth quarter of 2008 and comment as appropriate.

3. Background

This report pulls together existing information which will help give members an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

District Audit Public Interest Reports

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	0

Objections to the Council's Accounts

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	1 Dr.Sharpley	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
1 Dr. Sharpley	1 Dr. Sharpley *Audit Commission wrote on 10./12/08 to Dr. Sharpley rejecting her objections.	0	0

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
1	0	0	1
			Allegation concerning misuse of Council resources in the publication of the Islington Now Magazine. The Standards Board decided not to refer the matter to an Ethical Standards officer for investigation.

2008

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Complaints submitted to the Initial Assessment Sub-Committee

2008

Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
May – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	2 First complaint was referred to the Monitoring Officer for Investigation but subsequently no further action was taken as an apology was offered.	1 No further action was taken on the complaint which was then considered by the Review Sub-Committee on 11th December who also decided to take no further action
	Second complaint – the Monitoring Officer was asked to take alternative action.	

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - December
0	0	0	1
			Relates to the award of a contract. Initially sent to a third party who forwarded it to the Council. Currently being investigated by Internal Audit.

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	2 One relates to immigration status of an officer and the other relates to falsification of time sheets. Both cases currently being investigated.	2 One case relates to shift allowance of an employee and the other complaint relates to use of work van for personal use.

Number of challenges to procurements

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	0

Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol**2007**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	0

Disciplinary action relating to fraud**2007**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	0

Freedom of Information Act Indicators**2007**

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September		October - December	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	105	Total number of requests received within this quarter	94
No of requests compliant within this quarter	87	No of requests compliant within this quarter	69
Non compliant requests within this quarter	36	Non compliant requests within this quarter	30

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September		October - December	
No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	14 open	No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	0
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	4	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	9

2008

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September		October - December	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	184	Total number of requests received within this quarter	181
Number of requests compliant within this quarter	139	Number of requests compliant within this quarter	136
Non compliant requests within this quarter	44	Non compliant requests within this quarter	40
Number of requests still open and within the 20 working days	36	Number of requests still open and within the 20 working days	47
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	11	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	5

No. where information was withheld due to exemptions/fees applied

2008

Quarter 4: October-December 2008

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
216182	Member of the public	Fully exempt	s. 40 (Personal Information)	I want to know if the following 3 senior council employees are Freemasons. The names of these 3 council employees are: 1. Chief Executive of Homes for Islington 2. Director of Homes for Islington 3. Chief Executive of Islington Council
218871	Member of the public	Fully exempt	s. 40 (Personal Information)	<p>Please can you send me information on payments made by the local authority to staff who have not transferred to academies from their predecessor schools.</p> <p>* I would like the name of the schools involved, the number of staff, the amount paid out and when it was paid out. Please could you let me know also whether a compromise agreement was involved or not.</p> <p>If there is any other relevant information please could you send that too.</p>

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
				* I would also like a copy of any guidelines you have produced about such payments.
219438	Member of the public	Partial disclosure	s. 43 Commercial sensitivity	<p>I would like information regarding companies who pay the council for recycling services. More specifically:</p> <p>i) I would like the amount of companies in Islington that pay the council to remove their recycling waste. (I appreciate that the actual service of picking up recycling is outsourced, but the council will be able to deal with this request as the administration is dealt with internally.)</p> <p>ii) I would like to know the names of the companies that pay the council to remove their recyclable waste.</p> <p>iii) I would like to know how much the council makes each year (the most recent figures please) from the fees charged for removing recyclable waste from companies.</p> <p>iv) I would like to know how much the council is charged by the company that pick up the recyclable waste for the services. (I.e. I would like to know the profit Islington Council makes for providing the service.)</p>
219579	Member of the public	Refusal	s. 12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	An official copy of the rules and regulations for each individual section of each street within Islington, along with any material given to the parking enforcement officers for Islington to be sent to my home address
225268	National press	Partial disclosure	s. 40 (Personal Information)	<p>Under the Freedom of Information act 2000, please disclose full details of all pupils excluded from school after being caught using, or in possession of, a knife or bladed implement in each of the last five academic years.</p> <p>I would like the information broken down into year group, number of exclusions, type of exclusion (permanent or fixed term) and type of weapon involved.</p>

Industrial Action taken or notified**2007**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July – Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July – Sept	Oct – December
0	0	2 Industrial action taken on 16 th and 17 th July with regards to national pay negotiations. 200 employees participated on both days (full and part-timers). Further industrial action has been called off pending discussions at national level.	0

Number of Employment Tribunals received**2007**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - December
8 new cases 5 for same period last year	7 new cases 5 for the same period last year	4 new cases 9 for the same period last year	4 new cases 4 for the same period last year

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
6 new cases 8 for same period last year	3 New Cases 7 for the same period last year	5 New Cases 4 for the same period last year	2 New Cases 4 for the same period last year

Outstanding Cases

Number of Outstanding cases is 11 and 3 multiple claims - (Pensions 50 individual pension claims , 48 Equal Pay Homecarers Claimants and 7 Midday Meal Supervisors claiming Equal Pay).

30 outstanding cases and 2 multiple claims for same period last year.

Disposed of Cases

Number of cases disposed is 8 (2 cases were won and 5 were withdrawn 1 was lost).

3 cases were disposed of for the same period last year.

Type of cases received

Of the 2 cases brought against the Council this quarter, there were 2 claims of unfair dismissal, 1 of disability discrimination.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

2007

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July- Sept	Oct - Dec
Total	35	16	21	12
- Adult Services	1	1		
- Childrens services	1			0
- Environment & Regeneration	2	2	2	0
- Finance	3	2	2	1
- Homes for Islington	12	5		7
- Housing Performance & Property	3	4		
- Corporate Resources		1	1	0
- Customer Focus		1	3	1
- Other	3			
- Housing and Adult Social Services				3

2008

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July - September	October- December
Total	22	14	10	8
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0
- Childrens services	0	0	0	1
- Environment & Regeneration	4	1	2	0
- Finance	1	1	1	1
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	15	12	7	6
- Housing & Adult Social Services	2	0	0	0
- Other	0	0	0	0

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

2007

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct - Dec
Complaints settled	14	23	12	14
Total no. where compensation paid:	4	10	4	4
- Childrens Services	1			0
- Environment & Regeneration	3			0
- Finance	1		1	0
- Homes for Islington	6	7	1	2
- Housing, Perf. & Property	3	3		
- Customer Focus			2	0
- Housing and Adult Social Services				1
- Corporate Resources				1

2008

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July - September	October-December
Complaints settled	8	10	6	5
Total no. where compensation paid:	1	4	0	2
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0
- Childrens Services	0	0	0	0
- Environment & Regeneration	0	1	0	0
- Finance	0	1	0	0
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	1	2	0	2
- Housing and Adult Social Services	0	0	0	0
- Other	0	0	0	0

Ombudsman maladministration cases

There was 1 maladministration report issued against the Council (in August) by the Ombudsman during these quarters.

Please note: the figures for Q4 may change slightly if the Ombudsman forwards updated information over the next couple of weeks.

5. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

These indicators are provided at the request of the committee to help give the committee an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

Background papers:

Statistics provided by the relevant departments.

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

Director of Corporate Resources

Date

Received by

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report author : John Lynch
Tel : 020 7527 3002
Fax : 020 7527 3323
E-mail : john.lynch@islington.gov.uk