

London Borough of Islington
Standards Committee – 20 October 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 20 October 2009.

PRESENT: Diana Gibbs, Jane McNeill, Godfrey Stadlen and Alison Vydulinska.

Councillors George Allan and Richard Watts

Jane McNeill in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

That Jane McNeill be elected chair for Items 1 to 13 and Godfrey Stadlen take the Chair for item 14.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Father Jim Kennedy.

3. DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

Councillor Richard Watts for Councillor Phil Kelly

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

6. ISLINGTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – CONSTITUTION (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That the new requirements relating to standards of behaviour and process for dealing with breaches, as endorsed by the ISP Board on 16 September 2009, be noted.

That the role set out for the Standards Committee in the process for dealing with a breach be agreed.

That the thanks from the ISP Board be noted.

7. STANDARDS BOARD INTERVENTION, JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEES AND DISPENSATIONS (Item 6)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the dispensation request procedure set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, subject to the following redrafting points.

- Para 3 – the words ‘of a matter at a meeting of’ be replaced by the word ‘by’.
- Para 4 – after the word executive in line 2, insert the word ‘member’.
- Para 8b – review punctuation.
- Para 2(ii) – the wording of this paragraph should mirror the wording of paragraph 6.2 in the report.

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8. LOCAL ASSESSMENT, INVESTIGATION AND HEARING PROCEDURES REVIEW (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the procedures set out in Appendix 1 be agreed.

9. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09 (Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That the draft annual report be agreed, subject to the inclusion of references to the committee's contribution to Democracy Week and to the fact that the committee is open to dialogue with councillors and would welcome feedback from them on Standards Committee members' attendance at meetings.

The Annual Report would be presented to Council on 3 December. Following consultation with Father Jim, dates for him and other members of the Committee to attend the Area Committees to present the report would be circulated.

10. STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS (Item 9)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

That information on the Council's performance on meeting the deadlines relating to FOI requests be included in the statistics in future.

11. FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES (Item 10)

Godfrey Stadlen had provided a full report on the conference which was welcomed. A number of questions were raised in the report which were answered as follows.

- The officers mentioned were not trained in conflict resolution.
- The Council had agreed to continue to web cast meetings of the Council and the Executive.
- The Council would seek to achieve the Charter for Member Development following the elections in May 2010.
- There were a number of committee chairs who were not from the Liberal Democrat group, for example the Chairs of Overview and 2 of the scrutiny review committees.

Godfrey Stadlen, Jane McNeill, Councillor George Allan and John Lynch all attended the Annual Assembly.

The workshop on predetermination had been very useful and all the materials from all the events were now available on the Standards Board website.

The training dvd could be shown at the next meeting when there would be a report on the proposed induction training following the elections in May.

12. NEXT MEETING (Item 11)

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 4 February 2010.

13. ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item 12)

None.

14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Item 13)

RESOLVED:

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That the press and public be excluded from the following item on the agenda, as it would disclose exempt or confidential information within the terms of the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out under paragraph 10 of Appendix 5 of the Constitution.

Godfrey Stadlen in the Chair

Councillor Watts left the meeting.

15. REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION UNDER SECTION 59 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 (Item 14)

RESOLVED:

Following consideration of the additional advice provided, the investigating officer's finding that the councillor concerned had not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct be accepted.

The meeting which started at 7.00 pm finished at 8.15 pm.

CHAIR

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