

London Borough of Islington
Standards Committee – 4th February 2010

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 4th February 2010.

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

Councillors George Allan and Phil Kelly

Godfrey Stadlen in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

That Godfrey Stadlen be elected chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Father Jim Kennedy.

3. DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

6. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Audit Letter for 2008/09 and report be noted.

Noted the score of 3 for Use of Resources, including a 4 for sustainability as part of the new and harder assessment. Next year Human Resources would be looked at as part of the review.

7. COUNCILLOR INDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR 2010 (Item 6)

RESOLVED;

(1) That the general approach, dates and suggestions set out in the report be agreed.

(2) That the draft on-line Code of Conduct training be submitted to the next meeting for comment.

(3) The Chief Whips speak to the Head of Democratic Services separately over some of the detail of the induction. Noted that departments be advised not to overuse PowerPoint for their departmental briefings, basic contact information be included in ward packs for Registered Social Landlords, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, etc.

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8. REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9. STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS (Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that the Monitoring Officer write to Jane McNeill setting out details of the age discrimination case.

Noted that the complaints process had been revised to remove one of the stages in the process and encourage staff to say sorry. Satisfaction with how complaints were handled had recently risen from 20% to 60%.

10. NEXT MEETING (Item 9)

(1) Noted that the next meeting would be held on 20th April 2010.

(2) Diana Gibbs suggested that for the next meeting the Committee could look at how the Standards Committee members keep in touch with what is going on within the Council and Borough, outside of the formal meetings, how they share information and experiences. Members to come prepared with ideas on how to take this forward.

11. ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item 10)

None.

The meeting which started at 7.00 pm finished at 8.07 pm.

CHAIR

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