

# London Borough of Islington

## Standards Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2003

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

**Present:** Father Jim Kennedy, Paul Najsarek, Jo Michie and Matthew Saunders  
Councillor Derek Sawyer

**Also present:** Councillor Kasprzyk attended as an observer.

### Father Jim Kennedy in the Chair

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stacy.

2. **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

None.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2002 be confirmed and the Chair authorised to sign them.

In relation to minute 8 it was noted that the latest information from the government was that Section 66 Regulations would be published in two parts. The first section was expected to be available at the end of April and would relate to those matters where an investigation had already been carried out by an Ethical Standards Officer and they had referred the matter back to the Standards Committee for consideration.

The second part which related to where the Standards Board referred a matter directly to the Monitoring Officer to investigate and this was not expected to be published until November 2003. This was due to the fact that primary legislation needed to be passed to allow Monitoring Officers to delegate their powers to avoid any conflict of interest with having to advise their Standards Committee and carry out an investigation.

In relation to minute 10 it was expected to be several more months before the Ethical Standards Officer completed his investigation.

5. **DRAFT MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOL (Item 5)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the following amendments be made to the draft before it was submitted to the Executive for approval on the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

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- (a) A new Section be added under paragraph 2.5 setting out the dual roles of some officers in advising both the Executive and Scrutiny Committees.
- (b) Paragraph 4.1 be updated to change Political Advisers to Heads of Group Offices to reflect structural changes.
- (c) New Section be added under paragraph 4.2 setting out members entitlement to papers discussed at Joint Board meetings.
- (d) The fourth line of paragraph 5.1 be amended to also include the Monitoring Officer.
- (e) Officers would investigate how the protocol might be applied to contracted out or joint services.
- (f) A revised draft be circulated to Members before it was submitted to the Executive.
- (g) The trade unions also be consulted on the draft.

### 6. **TRAINING ON ETHICS AND STANDARDS (Item 6)**

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That training sessions on Ethics and Standards for Members be run on the 19<sup>th</sup> May between 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm in the Town Hall.
- (b) The Chief Whips would encourage their members to attend and raise any particular problems they would like covered in the sessions beforehand.
- (c) Details of the sessions would be circulated in due course.

### 7. **REPORT BACK FROM STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE (Item 7)**

The Committee noted the report back from the Chair.

### 8. **PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COUNCILLORS – DRAFT PAPER PRODUCED BY PETER KEITH-LUCAS, WRAGGE AND CO. (Item 8)**

It was noted that the government were planning to produce some model guidance when Section 66 regulations were published and would be basing their model largely on this draft.

Members agreed to revisit this issue at a later date.

### 9. **SECOND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES (Item 9)**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That John Lynch would clarify with the Standards Board details of the programme for each day and circulate these to Members in due course.

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### 11. **ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item 10)**

(a) Annual Report

#### **RESOLVED:**

That a draft of the Annual Report from the Committee would be circulated to members for comment, before it was submitted to the full council on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2003. The report would also ask the Council whether it wished the Committee to take on a wider remit with regard to other matters.

(b) Standards and Ethics Indicators

#### **RESOLVED:**

That officers produce a quarterly report which pulled together existing information which would give members an indication of the health of the Council in relation to Standards and Ethics. This could include information relating to the number of tribunal and whistle blowing cases, checks on hospitality registers kept by departments and any issues of probity raised by internal and District Audit or other relevant agencies.

(c) Next meeting

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 23rd June, 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

### **CHAIR**

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