

**London Borough of Islington**  
**Standards Committee – 30th March 2006**

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30th March 2006

**Present:** Father Jim Kennedy and Jo Michie  
Councillor Derek Sawyer

**Also Present:** Councillor Kasprzyk also attended

**Father Jim Kennedy in the Chair**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**  
Apologies were received from Councillor Terry Stacy.
2. **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)**  
None.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item 3)**  
None.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**  
**RESOLVED:**  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair authorised to sign them.
5. **ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2004/05 (Item 5)**  
**RESOLVED:**  
That the contents of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for 2004/05 be noted and the positive nature of the improvements in services and performance be welcomed.
6. **ETHICAL GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN (Item 6)**  
**RESOLVED:**  
That the action plan set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed.
7. **REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK (Item 7)**  
**RESOLVED:**  
That the report be noted.
8. **RESPONSE TO THE ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR ENGLAND RECOMMENDATION (Item 8)**  
**RESOLVED:**  
(a) That the protocol governing the permanent appointment of the Chief Executive and Directors be agreed subject to the following additions:

## Standards Committee – 30 March 2006

Para. 3.1

Insert new sentence to read 'The shortlisting should be done by the same members as those that carry out the interviews, except where this is not possible due to illness, clashes of meetings etc.

Insert new para. 3.4 to read

'Members are reminded to declare any personal or prejudicial interests at the start of the recruitment process and at the Sub-Committee meeting itself. If they are unclear about declaration of interests they should seek advice of the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.

(b) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to submit the protocol to the Standards Board for England as part of a report to them on the recommendation made to the Authority by the Case Tribunal considering the complaint against ex-Councillor Mary Creagh.

### **9. GENERAL ELECTION ACTIVITIES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (Item 9) RESOLVED:**

(a) That the contents of the report be welcomed.

(b) Officers include the web addresses for the Charity Commission and the Electoral Commission on the report, together with the list of election agents as an Appendix to the report.

(c) Officers post this guidance on the Council's website, and issue a press release advising voluntary organisations that the advice was available as well as copying the report to relevant organisations in the borough.

### **10. STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS (Item 10) RESOLVED:**

(a) That the Standards and Ethics Indicators for the period January to March 2006 be noted.

(b) Councillor Sawyer be advised of any issues in relation to four complaints settled in Circular 4 of 2005.

The figure for the number of Employment Tribunals received for this quarter was amended from 5 to 6.

### **11. MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07 (Item 11 - Oral Report)**

Noted that the dates for the general induction for Members would be Wednesday 17th May from 7.00pm to 9.30pm with a repeat of this session on Friday, 19th May from 3.00pm to 5.30pm. Specific training on the Code of Conduct, Planning and Licensing matters would take place during the day on Saturday, 20th and Sunday 21st May 2006.

## Standards Committee – 30 March 2006

Details of other events for Members would be circulated to the Committee as soon as they were finalised.

### 12. PROGRAMME OF MEETING 2006/07 (Item 12)

#### RESOLVED:

(a) That the future meetings would take place at 7.00pm on:

Monday, 19th June 2006

Tuesday, 17th October 2006

Thursday, 1st February 2007

Tuesday, 24th April 2007

(b) That officers check whether the 17th October meeting needed to be re-arranged due to a possible clash with the Annual Standards Assembly Conference.

### 13. ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item 13)

#### (a) No Smoking Policy

Councillor Sawyer raised the issue of the policy that had been agreed at the Corporate Services Committee on No Smoking and the reference in the report to breaches of the member's code of conduct. The Monitoring Officer confirmed her advice that the no smoking policy was enforceable vis a vis staff through their contracts of employment but clearly this did not apply to members. The only sanction she could envisage would be if someone were to complain that in not following Council policy in this respect, Councillors were bringing their office into disrepute and therefore in breach of the Code of Conduct. Clearly it would be for the Standards Board (or Standards Committee, in the case of local determination) to decide whether indeed such behaviour did constitute a breach.

#### (b) Thanks

The committee extended their grateful thanks to John Gilbert who had recently stood down from the committee. Thanks were also given to Councillor Derek Sawyer who would be standing down from the authority after 24 years service as a councillor. Councillor Sawyer's experience and contribution to the life and working of the Standards Committee would be greatly missed. Both were wished well in their future endeavours.

## CHAIR

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	John Lynch
<b>Designation:</b>	Head of Democratic Services
<b>Telephone No.:</b>	020-7527 3002
<b>Fax No.:</b>	020-7527 3092
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:john.lynch@islington.gov.uk">john.lynch@islington.gov.uk</a>