

London Borough of Islington
Standards Committee – 30th April 2007

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30th April 2007

Present: Father Jim Kennedy and Eric Sorensen
Councillors Terry Stacy and Richard Watts

Mr. Manjit Kumar - Co-opted Advisory Member

Father Jim Kennedy in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

None.

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 the 1st February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

5. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2005/06 (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and officers be congratulated on the progress made.

6. STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS (Item 6)

RESOLVED:

That the Standards and Ethics Indicators for the first quarter in 2007 be noted with the following amendments:

Page 13 - New Ombudsman complaints received Jan-March 2007

Total amended to read 26

Homes for Islington amended to read 13

Page 14 - Number of Ombudsman complaints settled Jan-March 2007

Total where compensation paid amended to read 4.

7. REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

(a) That the revised Code of Conduct together with the ten general principles be submitted to the June Council meeting for formal adoption.

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(b) All Members and co-opted members sign an undertaking to comply with the revised Code of Conduct.

(c) That training on the new code be organised both for Members and staff after it has been adopted by Council.

8. **INDEPENDENT MEMBER VACANCY ON THE COMMITTEE (Item 8)**

Noted that 11 CVs had been submitted for the Independent Member vacancy. Interviews were being held of applicants by the Personnel Sub-Committee on 27th April and 11th May 2007 and Council in June would be asked to agree the recommendation of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the successful candidate(s).

9. **LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK - 15th to 19th OCTOBER 2007 (Item 9)**

Noted that meetings had been held with CEA and useful resources, including some from the Electoral Commission had been passed to schools to help teachers with the democracy and citizenship agenda.

Schools were invited to make use of the Council Chamber for their school debates and attend the weekly Citizenship Ceremonies so that they could put these into context.

The Pupil Parliament would be held in the Council Chamber on 17th October this year and all Members were invited to attend. It was also planned to hold a political speed dating session between a cross section of Councillors and school children.

Other ideas for Democracy Week included spending a day shadowing the Mayor, Leader or backbench Councillor.

Electoral Services would also be writing to all children who will become eligible to vote, giving them details of how to register and vote in elections. They would also be making contact with all community groups in the borough encouraging people to register to vote and seeking volunteers from these communities to help with the annual canvass.

In terms of raising the profile of Councillors Communications were looking into the possibility of putting articles in Islington Now residents magazine that would highlight the role and work of Councillors as well as reminding residents of who their ward councillors were and how they could contact them as well as when and where surgeries were held.

10. **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2007/08**

Noted that future meetings would be held on:

Tuesday, 19th June 2007

Tuesday, 16th October 2007

Monday, 14th January 2008

Thursday, 20th March 2008

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11. ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item 11)

Chairs report from Area Committees visit

The Chair circulated a brief report setting out his thoughts and impressions following his presentation to the Area Committees of the Standards Committee Annual Report which was noted.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

CHAIR

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