

London Borough of Islington
Standards Committee – 3rd February 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 3rd February 2011

PRESENT: Diana Gibbs, Arvinda Gohill, Jane McNeill, Alison Vydulinska and Godfrey Stadlen
Councillors George Allen and Phil Kelly

Godfrey Stadlen in the Chair

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

None.

The Chair welcomed members from the London Borough of Hackney's Standards Committee to the meeting who had come to observe proceedings.

30. DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

None.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Jane McNeill declared a personal interest in Item 14 on the agenda as she knew the complainant.

32. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

33. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Chief Information Officer be thanked for his presentation.

(2) That future meetings the Committee be provided with compliance statistics monthly over the year and comparative information from the Information Commissioner on how Islington was performing compared to other boroughs.

(3) Councillors be reminded of the requirements and advice in relation to data registration and data protection issues generally.

34. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2009-2010 (Item 6)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and Alan Layton be thanked for his attendance.

Standards Committee – 3rd February 2011

35. REVIEW OF THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

(1) That the report be noted and a further report be submitted to the Committee once Internal Audit had completed their review.

(2) The next report would also look at the wording for whistleblowing for non-staff members, together with information relating to whistleblowing cases that have then resulted in employment tribunals or action taken against the whistleblower.

36. LOCALISM BILL – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS REGIME (Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the Committee wait until further details are available before commenting further.

37. STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS (Item 9)

RESOLVED:

That the report and revised format be noted.

38. REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY (Item 10)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

39. ANNUAL MEMBERS' SURVEY 2010 (Item 11)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and Group Offices and the Whips be encouraged to identify any further training and development needs of Members and to remind them of the help and support that is available from officers.

40. ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item 12)

None.

41. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Item 13)

RESOLVED:

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

42. REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION UNDER SECTION 59 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 INTO AN ALLEGATION CONCERNING A COUNCILLOR (Item 14)

Jane McNeill declared a personal interest in this item as she knew the complainant and left the meeting for this item.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the Investigating Officer's findings of no breach be agreed and no further action be taken.

The Committee noted that Councillor Gilbert had also now withdrawn his complaint.

Standards Committee – 3rd February 2011

The meeting which started at 7.00 pm finished at 8.37 pm.

CHAIR

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