

Standards Committee – 22nd January 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 22nd January 2014.

PRESENT: Councillors Allan, Davis, Alice Perry and Poole.

Ali Bird, JP, Louise Richards and James Woolf, Independent Persons also in attendance as observers.

Councillor Alice Perry in the Chair

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and the chair be authorised to sign them.

5. **REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE (Item 5)**

Noted the following amendment to the report -

The second and third line of paragraph 4.1 should read "... against 10 councillors have been received by the Monitoring Officer up until the end of 2013."

Members noted that the DCLG document 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests' was not statutory guidance.

Members considered that whilst all councillors should be encouraged to be as open and transparent as possible the proposal in the DCLG guidance was overly prescriptive and focussed on trade union membership when membership of other organisations could equally apply.

Clearly this was a different matter from either being employed by a trade union or declaring such membership if a potential conflict came up during a meeting.

Members felt that even though such membership was not included within the DPI categories, if it was included in the Council's Code of Conduct, this could leave members open to a breach of the Code if they didn't declare such membership.

RESOLVED:

That no changes be made to either the Council's Code of Conduct or the procedures for investigating complaints.

The meeting which started at 7.00pm finished at 7.25pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer:	John Lynch
Designation:	Head of Democratic Services
Telephone No.:	020-7527 3002
E-mail:	john.lynch@islington.gov.uk