

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

—Minutes—

2 APRIL 2008

Members Present:

Mr. Steven Moussavi (Chairman)
Councillor Donald Johnson
Councillor Lisa Homan
Ms Grace Moody-Stuart
Mr. Christopher Troke

Officers in attendance:

Lesley Courcoff, Assistant Chief Executive
Kayode Adewumi, Head of Councillors' Services
Andy Beresford, Assistant Head of Legal Services
David Bays, Committee Co-ordinator

ITEM		ACTION
Item 1	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2007</u> <u>RESOLVED</u> - That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2007 be agreed and signed as an accurate record.	ACE/KA/DB to note
Item 2	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Botterill and from Michael Cogher, Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer.	ACE/KA/DB to note
Item 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> There were no declarations of interest made by members at this meeting of the Committee.	
Item 4	<u>ASSESSING COMPLAINTS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007</u> The Committee received an update on the Act which came into	

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operation on 4 March. The relevant Guidance and Regulations had not, however, been published.

Arrangements were being made to recruit an extra Independent Member at an Appointments Panel on 8 April. A recommendation would be made from that meeting to the Annual Council meeting on 28 May.

It was also proposed, in parallel with this appointment process, for the overall size of the Standards Committee to be increased to 10 Members to deal with their new responsibilities under the Act.

RESOLVED That the Committee note the arrangements for appointing an extra Independent Member and recommend to the Annual Council meeting that the size of the Committee should be increased to 10.

Item 5 **STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 37**

The Committee noted the Bulletin had set out some examples of good practice in publicising the new system for assessing complaints. As far as Hammersmith and Fulham was concerned, the intention was to publish an article in Hammersmith & Fulham News, to include information on the Council's Website and to publicise the arrangements as part of the Council's activities during Local Democracy Week..

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

Item 6 **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED That the Council note the arrangements for the Annual Assembly in Birmingham on 13/14 October 2008 and authorise 2 delegates to attend, their fees, travel and accommodation expenses to be met by the Council.

DB

Item 7 **WORK PROGRAMME**

In connection with the Work Programme, the Committee noted a brief oral update on current cases which had been referred to the Standards Board.

Following the Annual Meeting of the Council it was planned to organise training for Members in June/July on the new arrangements for assessing complaints.

KA

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted and agreed.

Item 8 **ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08**

The Committee amended the draft report by reference to including a paragraph about the year ahead. **DB**

It was also agreed, arising from the item about the Annual North West London Boroughs Standards Committee Networking event, that Hammersmith & Fulham might host a similar event in November 2008 or January 2009, to which Kensington & Chelsea and the City of Westminster might be invited. **DB**

Meeting began : 7:00 pm
Meeting ended : 7:45 pm

CHAIR.....