

Standards Committee Minutes

Wednesday 24 March 2010

PRESENT

Committee members: Councillors Adronie Alford and Lisa Homan

Independent members: Joyce Epstein (Chairman) and Christopher Troke

Officers: Kayode Adewumi (Head of Councillors' Services) and Sue Perrin (Committee Co-ordinator)

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Botterill, Cowan and Johnson, Steven Moussavi, Grace Moody-Stuart and Michael Cogher.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

All Members declared a personal interest in that, should they be re-elected in the forthcoming elections, their Induction Programme for May 2010 was set out in item 5.

4. **STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 47**

The Committee noted the Standards for England Bulletin 47.

5. MEMBERS' INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR MAY 2010

All Members declared a personal interest in that, should they be re-elected in the forthcoming elections, their Induction Programme for May 2010 was set out in this item 5.

The Committee noted the outline arrangements for the Member Induction programme, which would be held immediately after the election.

It was highlighted that the officer telephone contact list circulated at the beginning of their term of office became out of date quite quickly. Therefore, 6-monthly updates should be circulated to Members. The Head of Councillors' Services confirmed that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be signed on the night of the election, wherever possible, and that the code of conduct would be signed as part of the Declaration. Members noted the increased use of social networking sites as a means of communication. Written protocols and guidance were required so that Members knew the Do's and Don'ts. A preference for information to be supplied in different formats such as CDs and hard copies was expressed.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Information provided to Councillors be available in different formats.
2. Information on contact personnel be regularly updated.
3. Guidance on IT issues and the use of social networks be included in the programme.
4. Members receive a six-monthly update of key officer contacts within the Council.

6. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received the draft Annual Report, which would be updated to show that two local complaints cases had been considered.

7. OUTCOME OF COMPLAINT

The Committee noted that, since the last meeting, the Council had received one complaint against a Councillor and that a meeting of the Assessment Sub-Committee, held on 2 February 2010, had decided to take no action.

8. FEEDBACK FROM SEMINARS

The Committee considered that the joint meeting with Kensington & Chelsea had been successful. The success was due to the keynote speaker Bob Chilton, Chairman of Standards for England. The Committee noted that the feedback

report on the issues discussed at the London Standards Committee Network event held at the GLA was quite interesting. An unresolved question was whether the number of complaints received was a reflection of the level of publicity and transparency of the process or high level of ethical standards.

9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted proposed items for the Work Programme for 2010/2011.

RESOLVED THAT:

Use of Social Networks and Blogging be added to the work programme.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 7.30 pm

Chairman Joyce Epstein

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