



# STANDARDS COMMITTEE —Minutes—

1 APRIL 2009

**Members Present:**

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

**Officers in attendance:**

Michael Cogher, Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Services)  
David Bays, Committee Co-ordinator

**ITEM**

**ACTION**

1

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2009**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2009 be agreed and signed as an accurate record.

**KA/DB to note**

**2**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alford, Botterill and Cowan.

**ACE/KA/DB to  
note**

**3**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4**      **CODES AND PROTOCOLS**

The Committee considered a report on paragraph 5.1 of the Member/Officer Protocol, as requested at the previous meeting. The report outlined Cabinet Members' extensive "need to know" to carry out their responsibilities and therefore the justification for them to be kept informed. This did not apply in the case of personal matters raised by opposition members where they would not receive a copy.

**MC**

It was noted that Councillor Cowan had not submitted any alternative wording for this paragraph but that he would be entitled to do so at the forthcoming Annual Council meeting when the Codes and Protocols were due to be discussed. Enquiries with other authorities seemed to indicate that they dealt with the issue on a case by case basis.

There were no other parts of the Codes and Protocols Members wished to review prior to the Council meeting.

In light of the the report, the Committee

**RESOLVED**

That no changes be recommended to the Council on the Statutory Codes of Conduct and LBHF Local Protocols and Guidance to Members, as set out on pages 360-413 of the Council's Constitution.

**5**      **ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09**

The Committee received a draft Annual Report and agreed some minor changes in light of the meeting as well as concluding comments by the Chairman.

**DB**

**RESOLVED**

That the draft report be updated and finalised as agreed above.

**6**      **REVIEW OF LOCAL COMPLAINTS SYSTEM.**

The Committee received a report summarising the system adopted in June 2008 and considered whether any changes were needed in light of experience during the year.

Only one case had been considered during the year. The system put in place had worked well and the Committee saw no reason to make any changes to the arrangements.

**RESOLVED**

That no changes be made to the system agreed in 2008 to deal with local complaints.

**7**      **WORK PROGRAMME**

**DB**

The Committee discussed possible topics for its Work Programme for the forthcoming year. In addition to a review of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and of the Anti-Fraud Service's current activities, they requested reports on

- The details of the complaints case heard in 2008, to be circulated as an exempt item
- The implications for the Committee of the arrangements for integrating the local authority and the Primary Care Trust
- How the Register of Interests and code on gifts and hospitality is monitored to ensure compliance by Members
- Feedback from the Council's IT section on the amount and duration of "hits" on the website in relation to local complaints.

They also agreed it might be useful to invite Sophia Lambert, Chairman of the Kensington & Chelsea Standards Committee

and Chairman of the Virtual Network of London Standards Committee Chairmen, to the October 2009 meeting for her ideas about future work by the Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the Work Programme be amended as set out above.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Moussavi raised his concern at the discussions which had been taking place about the possible Chairman for 2009-10, following the convention that the Chairmanship should rotate between the various Independent Members. The Committee were re-assured that this was normal practice in advance of meetings to elect Chairmen and in no way affected the decision of the Committee at its next meeting to elect its own Chairman.

Meeting began : 7:00 pm  
Meeting ended : 7.55 pm

CHAIRMAN.....