

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7 January 2003

Councillors: *Haley, *Laird, *Makanji, *GMMH Rahman Khan, Reynolds, *Rice, *Robertson *Winskill. *Mr R. Lovegrove (Chair), Mr R.Celaire, *Ms I. Francis and *Mr N. Weber.

*Members present.

SC25. APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Reynolds and Mr R.Celaire

SC26. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2002 be confirmed and signed.

SC27. MATTERS ARISING:

The Chair confirmed that an article on the Standards Committee had appeared in the December edition of 'Haringey People'. The Chair would approach the Editor of 'Insight' for a similar article to be published.

The Chair confirmed that the letter to all members of the Council and relevant co-optees, advising of the intention to place on the Council website general information about the code of conduct, register of interests, the Standards Committee etc, had been sent on 24 December 2002. The Liberal Democrat Group had discussed this at their recent meeting and had agreed that the details of all members be included on the website. The Labour Group would discuss same at their meeting, to be held on 9 January 2003.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed website layout, as circulated at the meeting, be e-mailed to all members for consideration.

SC28. ANNUAL REPORT ON COUNCIL'S COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE : 2001 /

Highlights of the Report were presented, which had been approved by The Executive in November 2002. It was agreed that the 'oversight responsibilities' of the Committee required defining as a broader function to be looked at further in a review of the Constitution. It was considered that the Committee should be involved at an earlier stage during the development of such procedures and not just at the final stage of approval alone. The Chair agreed to write to the Head of Local Democracy, setting out the Committee's view, regarding its relationship with other Council Bodies. The Committee requested regular updates on the progress of implementation of the Complaints Procedure every six months and the Chair agreed to investigate the same protocol for the 'accounting procedure'.

It was confirmed that neither a 'review' nor 'appeals' procedure in relation to complaints, was considered to be necessary.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the Council's Complaints Procedure be received and the decisions of the Executive be noted.

SC29. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

The Monitoring Officer reported that no referrals had been received from the Standards Board for England. However, allegations of misconduct had been made against two members of the Authority. It was reported that these complaints had been referred to an Ethical Standards Officer who may decide to proceed or not to proceed with an investigation. The members in question had been informed.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Monitoring Officer be received.

SC30. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON SECTION 66 LEGISLATION

Representations on the proposed Regulations' consultation document had been made and, according to The Association of Council Solicitors and Secretaries, it may be the Spring of 2003 before they are laid before Parliament.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Monitoring Officer be received.

SC31. THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND: 'LONDON REGIONAL ROADSHOW' - STANDARDS COMMITTEES ~ 21 JANUARY 2003

The date, venue and programme of The Standards Board for England, London Roadshow was noted and the Chair agreed to complete the application form(s) for those members wishing to attend.

SC32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, 3 April 2003 at 19.30 Hrs.

ROGER LOVEGROVE
Chair