

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, 30th January, 2024, 7.00 pm - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting [Here](#) watch the recording [here](#))**

**Councillors:** Erdal Dogan, Felicia Opoku, Ibrahim Ali (Chair), Scott Emery and Simmons-Safo

**Quorum:** 3

### **1. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the 'meeting room', you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **3. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of Urgent Business. (Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with under items 8 and 12 below).

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

(i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and

(ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

**5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 6)**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 31 October 2023.

**6. MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2024/ 2025**

Report to follow

**7. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (PAGES 7 - 8)**

This paper seeks to identify topics that will come to the attention of the Standards Committee and seeks members' input.

**8. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

As per item 3.

**9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

To note the dates of future meetings:

5 March 2024

**10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Item 10 is likely to be subject to a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 1 & 2; namely, information relating to any individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

**11. EXEMPT MINUTES (PAGES 9 - 12)**

To confirm and sign the exempt minutes of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee meeting held on 31 October 2023 as a correct record.

**12. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

As per item 3.

Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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Fiona Alderman

Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Monday, 22 January 2024

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON Tuesday, 31st October, 2023, 7.00pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Erdal Dogan, Felicia Opoku, Ibrahim Ali (Chair), Scott Emery and Simmons-Safo**

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

#### **18. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and members noted this information.

#### **19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies for lateness from Cllr Simmons- Safo.(arrived at 7.15pm)

*Cllr Emery arrived at 7.10pm*

#### **20. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was one item of urgent business in relation to agenda item 7 which proposed changes to the Constitution, Part three Section E, Property Delegations. This was late for the reasons set out in the late business sheet and the Chair agreed to accept this as late urgent business as there was a need to ensure that the committee considered this information before the Full Council meeting on the 20th of November.

#### **21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

#### **22. MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.

#### **23. RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND DISCIPLINARY, GRIEVANCE AND DISMISSAL PANEL**

The Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer introduced the report which sought approval to commence the recruitment of Independent Persons to support the Standards

Committee in relation to allegations that members or co-opted members have failed to comply with the Member's Code of Conduct, and to be considered for appointment to the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel when considering the dismissal of either the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- The incumbent primary Independent person had been in place for some time and had provided expertise, advice and support. There was no legal statutory bar to not allow the committee to re-appoint her to the Independent Person role, if she applied to this position. It was noted that attracting required candidates with expertise and experience to this role could be difficult however; it was good practice to have recruitment process every 4 years to provide this opportunity to local residents to apply.
- Applications from interested candidates from outside the borough were still considered if they had the right skills and experience.
- The primary and secondary independent member role would be advertised in Haringey, and Democratic services would seek to ensure that this was promoted as locally as possible.
- Due to the nature of the role, candidates would not be considered if they had a conflict of interest. The advert would set out where applicants could not apply i.e. if they had been a previous councillor or co-opted member.
- The advert and JD would contain the allowance, which was £1250 for the primary Independent Person.
- There would need to be three members of the Standards Committee on the shortlisting and interview panel.
- The panel should be politically proportionate. The Chair asked members to email the Democratic Services manager with their availability for the shortlisting exercise for the week beginning the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and interviews for the week beginning the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the commencement of the recruitment exercise for two Independent Persons.
2. To propose the annual allowance for Independent Persons of £1,250 for the primary member and £250 for the secondary member (subject to Council approval).
3. To propose that the Independent Persons appointed shall also be available to be considered for appointment to the relevant committee appointed by the Council (currently Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel) which is responsible for advising the Council on matters relating to the dismissal of the

Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer (subject to Council approval).

### **Reasons for decision**

The Council has a legal duty to put in place arrangements for having an Independent Person in relation to allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct. It must also have in place arrangements for at least two Independent Persons to participate in recommendations in relation to the dismissal of statutory officers. The law requires that IPS appointed in relation to the Standards regime to be invited to participate in this process.

### **Alternative options considered**

Under section, 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 the Council must appoint at least one Independent Person (IP) whose views are to be sought and taken into account by the Council before it makes its decisions on allegations about breaches of the Code of Conduct by Members or co-opted Members of the Council.

Under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 the Council must also have in place arrangements for inviting IPS to be involved in making recommendations to Council before any decision to dismiss a statutory officer is made. Authorities must invite any IPS supporting the Standards Committee for this purpose although it is also possible to use IPS from other authorities for this purpose where the authority considers it appropriate.

## **24. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION - PART THREE - RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FUNCTIONS, SECTION E - SCHEME OF DELEGATION - SECTION 2 GENERAL DELEGATION TO DIRECTORS - PROPERTY DELEGATIONS**

The Committee were asked to recommend amendments to the Council's Constitution at the Full Council on the 20th of November 2023. These amendments responded to actions arising from the Independent External Property Services Review and concerned: Part Three – Responsibilities for Functions, Section E – Scheme of Delegation - Section 2 General Delegation to Directors. These amendments had been considered and commented on by the Member Constitution Working Group at two meetings and were recommended to the Standards Committee for approval and onward adoption by full Council.

These proposed amendments further responded to the action in the review that the *delegated authority about the management of land be amended to reflect the corporate nature of the asset.*

The Committee noted that The Constitution Working Group considered changes to Section 2 General Delegations to Directors, for Property Matters, on the 6th of October and 27th of October and made comments which have been responded to and set out in Appendix 3 and 4. These changes would further underpin and inform compilation of a property decision making protocol which would go forward to

Constitution Working Group and Standards Committee in the coming months for approval and addition to the Council's Constitution.

In considering the track changes to Section E – Scheme of Delegation - Section 2 General Delegation to Directors, the Chair noticed that there were out of date references to the Staffing and Remuneration Committee which had expired as a committee and been replaced by the Appointments Panel and Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel and it was agreed to rectify these references in the report to the Council meeting.

**RESOLVED**

1. To agree the proposed amendments to Part Three – Responsibilities for Functions, Section E – Scheme of Delegation - Section 2 General Delegation to Directors, Property Matters, as set out in track changes in Appendix 3 and also proposed final version at Appendix 4.
2. To recommend these amendments to the Council's Constitution for approval at full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in accordance with part three section B, paragraph 5(l) of the Committee's terms of reference.

**Reasons for decision**

This is in accordance with the powers of the Standards Committee which are set out at part three section B, paragraph 5(l), *Considering amendments to the Constitution and recommending proposals to full Council for approval.*

**Alternative options considered.**

None - The amendments to the Council's Constitution are required as set out at Appendix 1, External Property Review Action Plan, reference item 1.

**25. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

NOTED

**26. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

NONE

**27. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

NONE

**28. EXEMPT MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**



To confirm and sign the exempt minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 27 June 2023 .

**29. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

NONE

CHAIR: Councillor Ibrahim Ali

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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**Report for:** Standards Committee 30 January 2024

**Title:** Committee Work Programme

**Report authorised by:** Fiona Alderman, Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

**Lead Officer:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager  
ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk, 020 8489 2929

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 Members to note current work programme and put forward any comments on suggested areas of work.

**5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024**

Members Allowance Scheme 2024/25  
Recruitment of Independent Persons – report to Council  
Council Standing Orders review  
Planning Protocol  
Member Complaints Process  
Procurement Standing Orders – TBC

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is exempt

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