

NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18th July, 2024, 7.00 pm - George meehan House,294 High Road N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting [Here](#))

Councillors: Barbara Blake, Erdal Dogan, 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 item 8 &11 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 5th March 2024.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT AND HEARING SUB-COMMITTEES (PAGES 7 - 10)

7. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (PAGES 11 - 12)

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. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Items 10-11 are likely to be subject to a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they contain 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.

10. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS UNDER SECTION 28(7) OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 (TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE) FROM 31 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2028 (PAGES 13 - 16)

11. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

As per item 3.

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Email: Ayshe.Simsek@haringey.gov.uk

Fiona Alderman

Assistant Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

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

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

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**MINUTES OF MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON
Tuesday, 5th March, 2024, 7pm - 8.49pm**

PRESENT:

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Fiona Alderman, Ayshe Simsek

42. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The filming at meetings notice was noted by attendees.

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

44. URGENT BUSINESS

Under s100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair of the meeting agreed that items 47 and 48 should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances which are to and ensure Committee are able to recommend adoption of the Member Allowances scheme to Full Council on the 14th of March 2024 and to allow the Council Standing Order changes to be agreed at the 14 March 2024 full Council meeting and implementation in the new municipal year. The reports were late to allow wider member consultation.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 30 January 2024.

47. MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2024/2025

The Democratic Services manager introduced the report which asked Standards Committee to consider the scheme proposed for 2024/25 municipal year and recommend the final scheme for approval by full Council on the 14 of March 2024, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Council's Constitution.

Before it could adopt a Members Allowances Scheme the Council had a duty to consider the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of Members Allowances. The Committee had considered this report at the 30th of January 2024 meeting and comments set out at paragraph 6.4.

The Committee considered that the independent review of Members' Allowance commissioned by the Committee in 2019/20 indicated that the Members' Basic Allowance percentage increase be index linked to the local government officer pay percentage increase, capped at 2% to be reduced if a lesser percentage is agreed. In 2023/ 2024, the Standards Committee had agreed to keep to this principle and recommended a 2% increase in the basic allowance. The Committee noted that in 2023, the local government officer pay percentage increase, for 2023/24 was 3.88% on all pay points above the maximum of the pay spine but graded below deputy chief officer. The current basic allowance is £11,472 and if a 2% increase was agreed this would rise to by £229.44 to £11,701.44 (rounded to (£11, 701.00)). This would require additional budget spend of around £13, 053.00(57x £229.00). We were in favour of a 2% increase in the basic allowance and saw this as a reasonable adjustment for the increase in volume of casework, increased communications through emails and taking account that Councillor colleagues were spending on additional resources to maintain increased volume of work and had families themselves to support.

The Independent Remuneration Panel set up for the purpose of making recommendations across London on Members' Allowances schemes report, published on 5th of January 2024, further supported this recommended increase in the basic allowance and contained much wider details and analysis of SRA's for London Councils to consider. The Standards Committee noted that the Basic Allowance figure was not the highest or lowest in London but was in the mid-range of provision and was still much lower than the recommended increase set out in the attached IRP report at Appendix 1 of £15,960.

The Committee discussed that going forward, there should be a regularisation of increases to the Basic Allowance to link with the local government pay increase, capped at 2% but noted the legal requirement to consider the Members' Allowance Scheme on an annual basis.

The Committee noted queries about analysis of the Members' Allowance Scheme and the interpretation provided, in the full Council report on the 13th of November 2023, that the allocation of the SRA Band 1B is provided to both the Leader of the Second Opposition Group and Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition. The Committee noted that an alternative interpretation could be applied, and the Committee were invited to specify whether the scheme should be either the Leader of the Second Opposition Group or Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition or whether both individuals should receive an allowance.

The Committee discussed the following:

- That when the original wording had been added to the Members' Allowance Scheme in 2017/2018, it was prior to the 2018 local elections and when the Standards review of the Members' Allowance Scheme had considered the potential of three political parties being locally elected to take up positions on

the Council. The Committee considered that the second Opposition group had not been elected in the 2022 elections as a political party to provide representation on the Council.

- The balance of responsibilities and workload of the two opposition groups was considered and noted that the Principal Opposition group had more members and were responsible for scrutinising the administration.
- The Principal Opposition held a seat on all ordinary committees of the Council and also held a seat on all Scrutiny Panels.

The Committee continued to agree that at Table A, Banding group 1B, at bullet point 6, deletion of: **Leader of the second Opposition Group or.** Agreed that this change is reflected at Appendix 2.

The Committee noted that sickness, paternity and maternity leave for Councillors is incorporated in the Members' Allowance scheme. The Committee noted that some work had been done to simplify the process for claiming childcare and carer payments and the Committee agreed to better publicise this form and include it as part of the Council report. This was attached at Appendix 5 for noting.

RESOLVED

1. To consider the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at paragraph 6.7 and reflected at Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To recommend that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/25 attached at Appendix 1, and the changes agreed above be adopted by Full Council on 14 March 2024.
3. To include the carers claim form attached at appendix 3 in the papers for Full Council on the 14th of March 2024 to support publicity.

Reasons for decision

The Council has a legal duty to approve a Members Allowances Scheme before the end of each year to cover the following year. The Council can amend a scheme any time during the year but can only revoke a scheme with effect from the beginning of the year. The scheme must make provision for basic allowances and, if they are to be paid, special responsibility, dependents' carers, travelling and subsistence and co-optees allowances.

Alternative options considered.

No alternative options were considered as there is a duty to adopt a members' allowance scheme annually.

48. COUNCIL STANDING ORDER CHANGES

The Committee considered a report on changes to Council Standing Orders and the Full Council Protocol, relating to deletion of the Haringey debate provision, the

meeting process for motions, Mayor's communications and having additional oral Council questions to allow wider back bench member involvement in Council meetings. These proposals had been put forward following discussion and steer at the Constitution Working Group.

The Committee was asked to agree with the small update to CSO 8.1(v) to ensure that there was no ambiguity with the rules relating to Council meetings finishing at 10pm. The Committee noted that motions that were not considered could still be put forward to the next meeting, but the onus was still on the political group to put this forward in line with CSO 13 and the sequencing would still need to be in accordance with the Full Council Protocol.

The Committee considered the deletion of the Haringey debate provision from Council Standing Orders and the Protocol and discussed the following:

- How the debate enabled external speakers and presentation of wider topical issues and allowed the mayor to promote their charity.
- The debate had been included as a provision in 2011 and the purposes and outcomes were now questioned as there was discussion of the topic at the meetings, but not tangible actions or outcomes proposed following the debates. This situation was not meeting residents, stakeholder expectations. The Committee noted that deleting the debate would allow motions to be reached and this facility can provide tangible resolutions and commitments from the Council. The Committee were assured that this process did not exclude local issues from being raised and the deputation's facility still provided the opportunity for public participation.

(Cllr Emery left the meeting at 7.39pm)

- Councillors could proactively speak with local stakeholders and residents to promote deputations to connect with the motions.
- The need to make the access to Council meetings easier for local people to encourage a wide range of voices at Council meetings. This included Councillors reaching out to local people that had influence and also updating the web pages to make clearer the engagement in meetings process.

The Committee noted that the CWG will next consider process on petitions and deputations at Council meeting and requested a further report in November to understand and comment on the final shape of Full Council meetings.

The Committee noted the changes to the Council Protocol on motion sequencing and mayoral communications and had no specific comments.

RESOLVED

1. To consider Appendix 1 outlining track changes to the Full Council protocol and recommend adoption by Full Council on the 14th of March 2024.

2. To consider Appendix 2 for ease of reference which contains the proposed updated Full Council protocol without the track changes.
3. To consider Appendix 3, Council Procedure Rules, outlining resultant changes in yellow and recommend to Full Council for adoption on the 14th of March 2024 and for the changes to take effect from the Annual Council meeting on the 20th of May 2024.

49. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The work plan items were noted and agreed an item on dispensation rules for councillors in November.

50. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of business.

51. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

52. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

53. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

None

CHAIR: Councillor Ibrahim Ali

Signed by Chair

Date

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Report for: Standards Committee – 18 July 2024

Title: Confirmation of the Membership of the Standards Assessment and Hearing Sub-Committees

Report authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Assistant Director 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 This report seeks confirmation of the Membership of the Standards Assessment and Hearing Sub-Committees.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

The Standards Committee is asked:

To agree that, given the need for members' expertise and discretion, the membership of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee and the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee be the same as the membership of the Standards Committee.

4. Remit of Standards Committee

The Articles of the Council's Constitution set out the remit of the Standards Committee at Article 9:

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the Council.

9.02 Composition

The Standards Committee will be composed of Councillors appointed on the basis of political balance. In addition, the Standards Committee may appoint up to six non-voting co-opted members.

Quorum. The quorum of the Standards Committee is three.

9.03 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and representatives of religious organisations and parent governor representatives;*
- (b) Assisting the Leader, Councillors, co-opted members and representatives of religious organisations and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;*
- (c) Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;*
- (d) Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;*
- (e) Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and the ethical framework;*
- (f) Granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;*
- (g) Advising the Council on codes and protocols forming the Council's ethical framework and its governance arrangements, monitoring the effectiveness of those arrangements and making reports and recommendations accordingly;*
- (i) Responding to national reviews and consultations on standards related issues;*
- (j) Granting exemptions for politically restricted posts and giving directions to include a post on the list of restricted posts;*
- (k) Advising the Council on the appointment of independent persons and taking steps to select them;*
- (l) Considering amendments to the Constitution and recommending proposals to full Council for approval*

9.04 Assessment Sub-Committee

The Standards Committee will establish an Assessment Sub-Committee to assess allegations that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct, as referred by the Monitoring Officer.

9.05 Composition

The Assessment Sub-Committee will be composed of Councillors appointed on the basis of political balance.

9.06 Role and Function

The Assessment Sub-Committee will have the following roles and functions: To consider all allegations referred to the Sub-Committee by the Monitoring Officer that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct and to determine whether the allegation:

- (a) merits no further investigation and is dismissed, or*

(b) merits further investigation.

9.07 Hearing Sub-Committee

The Standards Committee will establish a Hearing Sub-Committee to conduct hearings into allegations that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct and to determine such allegations.

9.08 Composition

The Hearing Sub-Committee will be composed of Councillors appointed on the basis of political balance.

9.09 Role and Function

The Hearing Sub-Committee will have the following roles and functions:

(a) To conduct hearings into allegations referred for investigation by the Assessment Sub-Committee that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.

(b) To determine whether or not the member or co-opted member did/did not fail to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.

(c) Where the Sub-Committee has determined that a member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct to take such action as it may lawfully take.

(d) In consequence of the hearing and determination of any allegation to make recommendations to the Council with a view to promoting high standards of conduct amongst members.

5. Memberships of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee and Hearing Sub-Committees

5.1 In addition to the above, there is more detail given in the Members' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Complaints against Members on how the sub-committees of the Standards Committees fulfil their role.

5.2 In Part 4 Section B of the Council's Constitution, the requirement that Members undertake training before participating in the work of the Assessment and Hearing Sub Committees:

In the case of meetings of Committees/Sub-Committees where prior member training is required, only those members who have attended appropriate training can be selected as substitutes. Currently these bodies are the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees.... Reserve members will be trained for the relevant body as soon as possible after their appointment.

5.3 It is suggested that the Standards Committee agree that, given the need for members' expertise and discretion, the membership of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee and the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee be the same as the membership of the Standards Committee.

5.4 It is customary for meetings of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee to begin with the election of the Chair, which allows flexibility in case the Chair of

the parent committee is unable to attend or has recused his- or herself from consideration of a complaint without giving a misleading impression for the reason for the election. It is proposed that that tradition is continued.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

Not applicable.

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The financial implications of the Committee's work programme, in particular the review of Members' allowances, will be set out for Members at the relevant time.

Legal

The Assistant Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted on the contents of this report.

Equality

There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. Use of Appendices

Not applicable.

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Council Constitution.

Report for: Standards Committee 18 July 2024

Title: Committee Work Programme

Report authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Assistant Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
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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.

4 November 2024

Planning Protocol
Member Complaints Process
Procurement Standing Orders
Member Dispensations
Annual report on Member complaints

30 Jan 2025

Members Allowance Scheme 2025/26

10 March 2025

Members Allowance Scheme 2025/26

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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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