

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2007**

MEMBERS:	Councillors Edge, Egan, GMMH Rahman Kahn, Kober, Lister, Williams, Winskill
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INDEPENDENT MEMBERS:	Mr N Weber (Vice Chair), Mr R. Lovegrove and Ms C. Sykes.
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Apologies                      Ms I Francis (Chair)

**MINUTE  
NO.**

**SUBJECT/DECISION**

<b>STCO26.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Irene Francis, the Chair. Nicholas Weber, the Vice-Chair of the Committee, took the Chair for this meeting.
<b>STCO27.</b>	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>  There was no such business.
<b>STCO28.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  There were no such declarations.
<b>STCO29.</b>	<b>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b>  The Monitoring Officer informed Members of developments relating to the Ethical Governance Action plan, as discussed in minute STCO020.  Members noted that the Standards section of the Council's website was to be revamped, with clearer links to reports and a section entitled 'Standards You Can Expect From Us'. An article was to appear publicising this in Haringey People.  It was also noted that the draft code of conduct for use with partnerships and draft guidance for informal partnerships were to be brought before the committee at a future date for consideration.  <b>RESOLVED:</b>  1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 4 <sup>th</sup> September be confirmed and signed.
<b>STCO30.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>  Members noted that this was the final Standards Committee meeting to be attended by Davina Fiore, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, who was shortly to leave the authority. Her Deputy, John Suddaby was to be the

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	<p>Acting Monitoring Officer following her departure. Councillor Khan, seconded by Councillor Williams, proposed a motion of thanks.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the committee formally record their utmost satisfaction with the excellent service offered to the committee by the outgoing Monitoring Officer.</li></ol>
<p><b>STCO31.</b></p>	<p><b>MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND</b></p> <p>No referrals had been received to the Monitoring Officer. Members requested information on one referral for which information was available on the Standards Board website. The Monitoring Officer stated she was unaware of such a referral, and would look into the matter.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Monitoring Officer investigate the Referral published on the Standards Board website, and report to Members on this matter.</li></ol>
<p><b>STCO32.</b></p>	<p><b>STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN</b></p> <p>The Committee received the most recent bulletin from the Standards Board for England.</p> <p>Members noted the proposed future increase in the rôle of the Standards Committee, with the Committee due to be the first port of call for complaints made against Councillors. Members debated whether this was a function for the full committee or for possibly ad hoc sub-committees, and promised to look at the issue in detail when the specifics became clearer.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the committee note the bulletin.</li></ol>
<p><b>STCO33.</b></p>	<p><b>CONSULTATION PAPER ON AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>The committee receive this consultation paper providing details on the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for Councillors. The report also informed Members of the recommended responses to the Government's consultation on the proposed changes.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer summarised proposed key changes to the Code of Conduct, including deleting the duty for Councillors to report each other to the Standards Board, and creating a third interest category of 'public service' interest. Further changes surrounded the category of 'prejudicial interest'; Members would now be able to make representations in meetings should they declare their interest. They would, however, have to withdraw before the decision itself was made.</p>

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	<p>Members were informed that ‘bullying’ was now specifically mentioned in the Code, although no precise definition was given.</p> <p>Members noted that the code stated that it was obligatory for Councillors to receive and consider advice, although there was no obligation for this to be acted on.</p> <p>The model proposed that confidential information could be disclosed where it was in the public interest to do so. It was noted that the public interest test was defined in the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p>Members noted what was perceived as the vague nature of the obligation to declare a ‘close personal association’ as an interest. It was also noted that Member misbehaviour in a private capacity was now to be part of the new Code. Members further noted that it was hoped that the new code would be brought in for the new municipal year, with all Councillors being trained on it.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>1. That the Committee adopt the response to the Model Code as recommendaed to the Committee.</p>
<b>STCO34.</b>	<p><b>REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY</b></p> <p>The Register of Gifts and Hospitality continued to be available on the Council’s website at: <a href="http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/council/how_the_council_works/standardscommittee/registerofinterests.htm">http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/council/how_the_council_works/standardscommittee/registerofinterests.htm</a></p>
<b>STCO35.</b>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no such items.</p>
<b>STCO36.</b>	<p><b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</b></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of the Standards Committee would take place in the next municipal year, following the agreement of the Annual Calendar by the Full Council AGM on May 21<sup>st</sup>.</p>
<b>STCO37.</b>	<p><b>VOTE OF THANKS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>1. That Members of the Standards Committee formally thank Davina Fiore, the outgoing Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, for all her work with the committee during her time with the Council.</p>

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NICHOLAS WEBER

Vice-Chair