

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2017, 7.00 - 7.35 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Kaushika Amin (Chair), David Beacham, Stuart McNamara, Felicia Opoku and Gina Adamou

Also in attendance: Councillor Gideon Bull

13. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair drew attention to the notice on filming at meetings.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Reith, Councillor Adamou attended as a substitute.

15. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standards Committee of 13 October were agreed.

18. CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Noting the time available to consider the papers, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful for other members of the Council to have opportunity to consider changes proposed to the Constitution. The Chair agreed that a briefing session for Members would be helpful. This item was therefore deferred without consideration.

19. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME FOR 2017-18

The Committee considered the paper before them, which set out a proposed Members' Allowance Scheme for 2017/18, for the Standards Committee to make recommendations to full Council.

Members noted the proposal to not change Members' allowances from the current year, and to introduce an allowance for the statutory co-optees on the Combined Pensions Committee and Board, which was established in the current municipal year, in line with the allowance provided to the statutory co-optees on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee agreed that it was preferable for the total cost of the allowances to be maintained and not increased, but that there could be changes made to better recognise Members' responsibilities. It was noted that the report proposed that a fundamental review take place over the next municipal year, to ensure a suitable allowances scheme was in place for the Council elected in May 2018.

Councillor Gideon Bull set out that he had made a request to the former Chair of the Standards Committee for there to have been a review of allowances in the current municipal year. He regretted that that had not happened and that he had not been kept abreast of the Standards Committee's consideration of allowances.

The Chair set out that it would be helpful for there to be wider consultation as part of the review of allowances, which all Members would be able to contribute to, and that this should take place in the Autumn.

RESOLVED:

To recommend full Council:

1. Revoke the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17 as of 31 March 2017; and
2. Approve the proposed new Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017-18, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to take effect from 1 April 2017

20. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the following items contained exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 1 and 2, Part 1, schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

22. MINUTES OF STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Standards Assessment Sub Committee held on 17 November 2016 were noted.

23. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

None.

24. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

CHAIR: Councillor Kaushika Amin

Signed by Chair

Date