

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2017, 7.00 - 8.15 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Kaushika Amin (Chair), David Beacham, Felicia Opoku and Lorna Reith

13. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair drew attendees' attention to the notice on the agenda regarding filming at meetings.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McNamara.

15. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standards Committee held on 6 July 2017 were agreed.

18. ADOPTION OF PLANNING PROTOCOL (2017) INTO THE CONSTITUTION

Ben Burgerman, Regeneration Lawyer, introduced the paper that recommended the Council's Planning Protocol be inserted into the Constitution, which would provide it greater weight and support efficient, open, accountable and lawful-decision making by the Planning Sub-Committee.

Following a discussion by Members, it was agreed that the Committee recommend to Full Council the Planning Protocol be included in the Constitution.

RESOLVED

That the Standards Committee recommend Full Council adopt the Planning Protocol as part of the Constitution.

19. UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME - REVIEW OF PROCEDURES AND MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Michael Kay, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager and Victoria Barman Principal Corporate Lawyer introduced a report that set out progress in the review of the Constitution and Members' Allowances, agreed at the last meeting.

In relation to the review of the Constitution, Members noted that the procedure rules were being reviewed and an update would be presented at the next meeting. Members noted a proposed outline for the Protocol on Member-Officer Relations, where a full redraft had been agreed. In discussing the proposed outline, Members agreed that it would be helpful for the document to refer to relations with Veolia and Homes for Haringey officers. They also agreed it would be helpful for the new document to be presented at an all-Member briefing, and that it would be important to ensure the Councillors returned at the May 2018 elections could readily understand the new Protocol as part of their induction.

Following a presentation on how Haringey's allowances scheme compared with the guidance of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London, averages across London and Haringey's statistical neighbours, Members discussed possible proposals to be brought to them at the next meeting. This would help ensure the allowances scheme set for the municipal year following the elections would be valid whatever outcome of the election, and also take account of developments since the last fundamental review. Members asked for the following matters to be considered, with the objective of broadly maintaining the current level of expenditure on allowances:

- How a third party could be incorporated in the allowances scheme
- How other boroughs provided for principal opposition parties' deputy leader and whip
- Whether opposition parties' allowances could be proportionate to their size
- What the equivalent allowance for the Corporate Committee Chair would be, given it is effectively now an audit committee
- Whether the Vice Chair of Regulatory, who is expected to regularly chair Licensing sub-committee meetings, could attract an allowance
- Consider whether the statutory co-optees on the Scrutiny Committee, would normally attract an allowance, and whether it could be reduced or withdrawn if nominees do not attend regularly
- That the dependents' carers' allowance should be listed as being at the London Living Wage, rather than setting a figure that can become out-dated
- That the one per cent uplift recommended by the Panel should be followed to reduce the risk of having to make significant increases when allowances fall far below expected levels
- Whether Cabinet Members' allowances vary in other boroughs according to the Cabinet Member's portfolio

RESOLVED

That further work be done to review the Constitution and the Members' Allowances Scheme in line with the Committee's recommendations

20. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

21. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

16 November 2017, 8 March 2018

22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved.

23. MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 JULY 2017

The minutes of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee held on 6 July were agreed.

24. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

None

CHAIR: Councillor Kaushika Amin

Signed by Chair

Date