

MINUTES OF MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON Tuesday, 4th October, 2022, 7.00pm – 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ibrahim Ali, Barbara Blake, Scott Emery and Reg Rice

ALSO ATTENDING: Ayshe Simsek, Fiona Alderman

15. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The notice of filming at meetings was referred to and noted by attendees.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Rice was elected to chair the meeting.

17. URGENT BUSINESS

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager explained that there were no new items of urgent business, but there was a report at item 7 which was distributed late. This concerned increasing the number of non-voting co-optees on the Alexandra Park and Palace Board. This report was late because the Alexandra Park and Palace Board considered this report on the 29th of September and put this forward, after the publication of the papers for Standards Committee.

The Chair accepted this report as late business.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 30 June 2022 as a correct record.

20. INFORMATION REPORT ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2022/2023

The Democratic services and Scrutiny Manager introduced the report, which responded to the request, at the previous meeting in June, for some further information about outside bodies and the current capacity of councillors that are nominated to sit on these bodies. This information was set out in the attached report

and also contained a useful reminder of the of the voting capacities of councillors that sat on these outside bodies as well as their aims and objectives.

Section 4 of the report provided councillors with a more detailed understanding of their legal responsibilities according to capacity of their representation i.e. as trustees, company directors, non-voting members, and observers.

There was also some good guidance from Legal services on what situations to make declarations of interest, which was important to know if there was any future council decision making that affected the outside body.

The Committee further noted that the report had information on councillor's indemnity on outside bodies and how the Councillor Code of Conduct may be applied.

Committee members commented that the report would be useful to circulate to all councillors for information.

There was a discussion about councillors that are on school governing boards and the circumstances where they need to make a declaration and withdraw from a Council meeting. It was noted that this situation had been encountered by past parent governing body co-opted members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Legal advice had been given, advising them to declare a prejudicial interest and to withdraw from the meeting, for the whole of the item, that was considering particular budget proposals concerning their school.

The Constitution advised that a councillor who was a parent governor would have a personal interest in any matter to be considered or being considered by an authority and was not a prejudicial interest where that matter related to the functions of their authority in respect of (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where a councillor was a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or were a parent governor of a school, unless it related particularly to the school, which the child attended.

There was a query about local authority nominations to school governing boards and experiences shared of this process. It was clarified that the Council did not treat governing bodies as outside bodies and there was a set process for this with the school putting forward recommended appointments to the Council for approval. Agreed that there be a discussion with the Chair at the next meeting to understand if this was a process to be looked at by the Committee.

It was noted that the Schools Forum was classified an outside body but local authority representatives did not have a vote on this.

In response to a question, the Democratic services manager was not aware of any councillor who was remunerated for their position on the outside body but in any event this would need to have been declared as disclosable pecuniary interest on their Register of Interest form.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

21. CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION ENABLING A CHANGE TO THE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK BOARD TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF NON- VOTING CO-OPTees FROM THREE TO SIX, TO ENABLE TWO YOUTH TRUSTEES AND AN INDEPENDENT LEAD TRUSTEE FOR FUNDRAISING TO BE RECRUITED.

Cllr Ali declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a member of the Alexandra Palace and Park Statutory Advisory Committee. This was not a prejudicial interest as the Committee was not making a decision on this item and considering this for comments.

The report sought agreement to increase the number of co-optees on the Alexandra Palace and Park Board, from three to six, to enable two youth trustees and an independent lead trustee for fundraising to be recruited.

The Membership of the Trustee Board currently included four co-optees who were ex-officio appointments from the Consultative Committee and the Advisory Committee ('observer').

The Committee were asked to note the report and provide any comments in accordance with their responsibility for supporting training of co-opted members.

The Committee considered the attached report and made no specific changes and recommended that a register of interest was completed by the non – voting co-opted members in line with good practice and that the co-opted members were briefed on the Councillors Code of Conduct and had some related rules to follow.

RESOLVED

To note the attached report.

To support the approval by Full Council to increase the number of co-optees on the Alexandra Palace and Park Board, from three to six, to enable two youth trustees and an independent lead trustee for fundraising to be recruited.

22. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED

To note the work programme

23. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

24. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED

25. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

To exclude the press and public as the following items contained 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.

26. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS - STANDARDS COMMITTEE FROM 30 JUNE 2023 - 29 JUNE 2024

As per the exempt minutes and recommendations.

27. EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the exempt minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 30 June 2022 and the exempt minutes of the Standards Determination Hearing meeting held on the 26 July 2022 as a correct record.

28. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

None

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date