

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON Monday, 10th March, 2025, 7.00 - 8.07 pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Barbara Blake, Erdal Dogan, Ibrahim Ali (Chair) and  
Simmons-Safo**

### **35. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred to the filming at meetings notice, and attendees noted this information.

#### **RESOLVED:**

To note the filming procedure

### **36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Emery

### **37. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **39. MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 4 February 2025, were discussed.

#### **RESOLVED:**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 4 February 2025, were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **40. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION: MEMBER ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager introduced the report. It was explained that this report was a continuation of the report received in February 2025, and it was noted that it was a requirement to replace the Member Allowances Scheme annually.

It was explained that some changes had been made to the Special Responsibility Allowances for clarity.

It was noted that there had been consideration by other comparable local authorities to increase the Basic Allowance by 2.5%, which was in line with the Local Government Pay Offer, which was also a consideration for the Standards Committee to consider. It was explained that the increase was considered by the finance statement to not be a significant impact on the Council's budget.

In response to Member questions, the following points were raised:

- Members noted that there was a need to maintain the scale of allowances with the Local Government Pay Award, to ensure that larger increases were not required in future.
- Members explained that there was a need to ensure competitive allowances in order to ensure that the role was attractive to prospective Councillors.
- It was highlighted that there was a need to consider the overall finances of the Council, but additionally stressed that Haringey's Basic Allowance was lower than other comparable Local Authorities.
- It was noted that there were provisions within the Allowance Scheme for Child Care costs, and that Members should be reminded regarding potential support.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee:

1. Agreed the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at section 6 and reflected at Appendix 2 to the report.
2. Recommended that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/26 be adopted by Full Council on 24 March 2025.

**41. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION: FULL COUNCIL SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager introduced the report. Officers explained the context of the current Constitutional arrangements regarding the number of questions, and second supplementary questions, which was considered to be ambiguous. The Constitution Working Group recommended to the Standards Committee that, while this process was an outlier in comparable authorities, that the current rules be kept, ensuring openness and transparency, but clarified to ensure effectiveness. It was explained that the proposals in the report would provide the Chair of Council with clearer guidance and procedure to ensure fairness and proportionality.

In response to Member questions, the following points were raised:

- Officers clarified the total number of questions allocated to Groups. It was explained that question allocation was not previously allocated by proportionality. Members questioned whether question allocation could be allocated on a basis of proportionality. Officers suggested that, following changes to debates and motions in the past, that the opposition groups be given more questions to increase participation.
- Members asked whether the number and allocation of question be reviewed after a year of operation.

## **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee:

1. Recommend to Full Council on the 24 March 2025 the changes to CSO 10.7 and that this provision read as:

*The Councillor asking any question may ask the first supplementary question without notice of the Councillor to whom the first question was asked. The second supplementary question, relevant to the original question, may be asked by a Councillor of the other political party or groups unless they do not wish to use it in which case it reverts to the party asking the original question. In allocating the second supplementary questions, the Mayor will have regard to: the overall time period for Council questions, their constitutional role and function in chairing the Council meetings set out in Article 5, and the political party or group's proportional representation on the Council. (In principle this would usually be four questions to the first opposition group and one question to the second opposition group) Each supplementary question must arise directly Page 8 Page 3 of 3 out of the original question or the reply. No supplementary questions may be asked on written answers*

## **42. CHANGES NON VOTING CO OPTED MEMBERS PROTOCOL**

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager introduced the report. Officers explained current protocol for co-opted Members to Committees, noting that this was developed in 2021 and was an outlier with other comparable local authorities. It was explained that the Constitution Working Group had reviewed the procedure in order to ensure relevance. The Constitution Working Group suggested that the onus for appointment of co-optees be given to the parent committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). It was additionally suggested that there needed to be safeguard to ensure that co-opted Members be considered neutral and not politically charged. It was additionally stressed that potential co-opted Members were required to be beholden to a process of understanding conflicts of interest, as well as be invited to understand and adhere to the Code of Conduct, despite not being a requirement.

Officers noted that the proposal for co-opted Members would be that there be a process of recruitment annually and that the Chair of OSC be involved in the interview process.

In response to Member questions, the following points were raised:

- That the Committee welcomed the suggested involvement of the Chair of OSC in the process of appointment of co-opted members.
- Officers explained that anyone with a live case with the Council which would prejudice an applicant, would be taken into account. It was stressed that historic cases would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and that references would be sought to understand any issues or contact with the Council.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee:

1. Agreed the non-voting co-opted Member protocol for implementation and publication on the Council's website.
2. Agreed the required changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 4 Section G, arising from the discussions at the Constitution Working Group in relation to the non-voting co-optee protocol and specifically that the decision making is assigned to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. To further recommend this change to the Full Council meeting on the 24 March 2025.
3. Noted the required changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Protocol.

### **43. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION: PROCUREMENT STANDING ORDERS**

The Chief Procurement Officer introduced the report. He explained that there had been extensive consultation on the proposed changes, as well as discussion with colleagues in Legal, Finance and Members of the Constitution Working Group. It was explained that these proposed amendments were resultant of changes to procurement regulations in the Procurement Act 2023, and that amendments aligned with the regulations. It was additionally noted that there was a proposed new model of procurement, which would be facilitated by the changes within the proposals.

Officers outlined potential amendments to process, including changes to Cabinet process, requirements to centralise procurement decisions over £25,000, that Directorates provide a clear timeline of procurement decisions, and clarifications to contract management and termination procedures.

In response to Member questions, the following points were raised:

- Officers explained that there was a mechanism in place to ensure that any relevant contracts which would fall under the oversight of monitoring bodies, such as the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED), and that any provider which fell under the performance, would be suspended from continuing provision for the Council.
- Officers explained that there was a training programme which would align with government guidelines.
- Members noted that they welcomed the threshold of £25,000 in order to ensure adequate oversight of procurement decisions made.
- Officers explained that there had been a growth bid undertaken by the Procurement service that met the demands from the increased requirements of these proposals.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Standards Committee:

1. Recommended that the Council adopt the proposed revised Part Four of the Constitution, Section J Contract Procedure Rules as attached at Appendix 1 – Contract Standing Orders 2025.
2. Noted the following key amendments:
  - a. Alignment with the Procurement Act 2023;
  - b. Cabinet to approve the commencement of procurements where the contract would exceed £500,000 (five hundred thousand pounds);
  - c. Centralisation of procurements above £25,000 (twenty-five thousand pounds);
  - d. The notification of procurement pipelines to the Chief Procurement Officer and the requirement to publish pipelines;
  - e. The formalisation of Social Value considerations aligned to the Council's pending Procurement Social Value Policy;
  - f. The introduction of contract management and contract termination provisions;
  - g. Procedural matters will be contained in the Procurement Code of Practice

#### **44. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was discussed.

**RESOLVED:**

The Work Programme was noted.

**45. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

**46. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as items contain exempt information as defined under paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**47. EXEMPT MINUTES**

The exempt minutes were discussed.

**RESOLVED:**

Agreed as true and accurate record.

**48. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

CHAIR: Councillor Ibrahim Ali

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....