



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Council

On 19 JULY 2010

Report Title. Annual Report from the Standards Committee : 2009 /10

Report of Standards Committee

Signed : Annabel Loyd, Chair of the Standards Committee and Mr John Suddaby,
Monitoring Officer, London Borough of Haringey

Contact Officer : Clifford Hart, Committees Manager

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Wards(s) affected: n/a

Report for: non key decision

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To report on the activities of Standards Committee over the previous year and to give information on the monitoring of the Members' Code of Conduct and of complaints against members.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member – n/a

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

3.1. This report is part of ensuring good ethical governance of the authority and complements the Council's Code of Governance and Annual Governance Statement.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the enclosed Annual Report be endorsed.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1. It is required to consider and endorse the Annual Report for 2009/10.

6. Other options considered

6.1. n/a

7. Summary

New Local Filter Arrangements brought in

7.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and related Regulations made amendments to the previous system for dealing with complaints that Councillors and co-opted members have breached the Members' Code of Conduct. The main change was introduced and became effective in May 2008, and changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect these changes were agreed by Full Council in July 2008. The changes required local Standards Committees to receive, assess, review and determine complaints in place of the Standards Board for England (SBE).

7.2 The new arrangements were reported to the Standards Committee at its meeting on 13 June and agreed, and adopted by Full Council on 14 July 2008.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1 The report is noted and there are no specific financial implications

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1. The legal implications are contained in the main report

10. Head of Procurement Comments –[Required for Procurement Committee]

10.1. n/a

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1. There are no specific implications. The Committee is bound by its terms of reference and will conduct itself within these.

12. Consultation

12.1. n/a

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1. n/a

14. Use of appendices / Tables and photographs

14.1. Attached annual report at appendix A and Appendix B Gifts and hospitality register

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

15.1. [Also list reasons for exemption or confidentiality (if applicable)] – n/a

APPENDIX 1

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE: 2009/10 COUNCIL 19 JULY 2010

1. Introduction

This item reports on the activities of Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/10 and gives information on the monitoring of the Members' Code of Conduct and of complaints against Members.

Standards Committees for all Authorities in 2008/09 had gone through a period of major change due to the implementation of the 2007LGA and the publication of a new Model Code of Conduct which Haringey -in common with other Authorities- has adopted, un-amended, as its own Code. The 2009/10 year has successfully continued to work with these new arrangements and has had four meetings of its Assessment Sub committee, 1 meeting of its Review Sub-Committee, and 3 Standards Determination Hearing Panels.

The Register of Interests is available for all to view both in hard copy and on the Council's website. Individual declarations made at meetings are also able to be viewed on-line as part of meetings' minutes. The Opt-In option has continued to be applied to the online version of the Register of Interests as with the old Register of Financial Interests.

Independent Members

The Committee welcomes the appointment of James Darbyshire & Phillip Skinner as new independent members, who were appointed in March April 2010, and confirmed on May 24 2010 at the Council's AGM. The Committee organised the recruitment to the positions and was able to select both from a high-quality pool of applicants. The vacancies have arisen as a result of (i) the increase in Independent Membership of the Standards Committee, as agreed by the Committee on 14 January 2010 and confirmed by Full Council on 18 January 2010, and (ii) the period of office of one of the existing Independent Members (Roger Lovegrove) coming to an end on 24 May 2010. Mr Lovegrove served on the Committee for a period of 4 years, extended for a further period until May 2010. The previous Chair's (Ms Carol Sykes) period of office was further extended by 1 further year by Full Council on 18 January 2010 from the period 24 May 2010 to 23 May 2011 in order to allow for continuity, and to bring wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Committee given from serving for 4 years to date, which would assist the development of the 2 newly appointed Members.

The Standards Committee continues to work for the improvement of ethical standards in the Council in Haringey, and we look forward to another successful year ahead. We recognise that we would not be able to carry out our work without the support of Officers, whom we would like to thank.

Carol Sykes
Chair, Standards Committee

2. Signatories to the Members' Code of Conduct

At the end of the reporting year all 57 Councillors had signed accepting the Code of Conduct, as had all independent Members of the Standards Committee, and the 4 Co-opted Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Details of the Standards Committee

3.1 Political Breakdown

At the start of the reporting period, Standards Committee consisted of

4 Labour Councillors; 4 Liberal Democrat Councillors; 5 Independent Members

3.2 Changes in Membership

Following the increase of 1 Independent Member of the Independent Membership of the Standards Committee as agreed by the Committee on 14 January 2010, and confirmed by Full Council on 19 January 2010 (making a total of 6 Independent Members), a recruitment process was commenced to fill this additional Independent Member position as well as to fill a vacancy that would arise in May 2010 due to the term of office of one the existing independent members ceasing, The vacancies were appointed to in March 2010 and confirmed by Full Council in May 2010, therefore the new appointed independent membership was effective for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

3.3 Chair and Deputy Chair

Ms C Sykes & Ms A Loyd and were elected, respectively, as Chair and Deputy Chair for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

3.4 Meetings

Three ordinary meetings and a number of training sessions were held during the year. The Minutes of Meetings held during the year, having been previously circulated, are available, by request, from the Standards Committee Manager and for inspection in the Members' Rooms, prior to and immediately following the Council Meeting on 19th July 2010.

The Minutes are also available on the authority's website at <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk> .

3.5 Monitoring Officer

The Committee's Lead officer continues to be John Suddaby, the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

3.6 New arrangements for Local Filter of complaints

New arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Members' Code of Conduct became effective from 8 May 2008 and gave the Standards Committee the responsibility for assessing, reviewing and determining complaints that a Member has failed to abide by the Code of Conduct. The Standards Board for England would still determine cases in exceptional circumstances and will retain a responsibility for advising Standards Committees and overseeing the effectiveness of the new arrangements.

The Council's Standards Committee has set up two new sub-committees to discharge their new functions. The Assessment Sub-Committee decides if there is sufficient evidence to refer a complaint to the Monitoring Officer for investigation or in the most serious cases to the SBE. If the decision is to take no action, an aggrieved complainant can request a review to be undertaken by a Review Sub-Committee with a different membership. Where a hearing into a complaint is necessary this will be undertaken by a Hearing Sub-Committee in accordance with existing procedures.

These Sub-Committees comprise members of the Standards Committee selected in rotation so far as is practicable. There will always be at least one elected Councillor but the Chair must be an independent member under the Regulations.

Since the membership of the Sub-Committees is not fixed but selected in rotation, power has been delegated to the Head of Local Democracy and Member Services to appoint the membership for meeting in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer, detailed in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Appendix E, Part F.7, Section 9, paragraph 1.4 of the Constitution).

Training of Standards Committee Members in the new responsibilities has continued and took place in early June, and September 2009. The Assessment Sub-Committee has met on 4 occasions where no action has been taken on 3 complaints and 1 case has been referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation. The Review Sub-Committee met on 1 occasion and agreed that no action be taken on the case referred to it.

The Standards Committee – Determination Hearing Panel met on 3 separate occasions to consider the outcome of 3 investigations against the conduct of 3 individual Councillors. 1 hearing panel imposed a 3 month suspension of the subject Councillor concerned, 1 hearing panel censured the subject member concerned, and the other hearing panel took no further action against the subject member concerned.

In respect of granting exemptions from political restriction to Council posts the amendments to the legislation also gave local Standards Committees a new role, replacing the national adjudicator, in granting exemptions to officers at or above SCP 44 whose grade would otherwise place their posts within the list of those politically

restricted. If a post below Deputy Chief Officer level does not require the officer to give regular advice to Member bodies/Committees or to speak regularly to the media as a Council representative, then the Standards Committee will be able, on the officer's application, to grant an exemption from political restrictions. Any person can ask the Standards Committee to consider whether to direct the inclusion of any post within the politically restricted list applying the criteria above.

4 Register of Members' Interests (ROI)

The ROI is available for inspection, by appointment within normal working hours, at River Park House.

Additionally, a simplified version of the ROI is included on the Haringey Council website. The simplification consisted of:

- modification of entries by removal of personal contact details;
- allowing Members to opt in or opt out of having their register published on the website.

5 Registration Form for Gifts and Hospitalities

5.1 Summary of Registrations

All signatories to the Members' Code of Conduct are required to register with the Monitoring Officer each Gift or item of Hospitality of value of £25 or more received and arising out of their official positions. Registration of items valued at less than £25 was, and still is, voluntary.

Entries registered for items of gifts and hospitality offered during the year are available under each individual Member's Register of Interests. A summary by value of the items registered for the year is given in Table 1.

33 councillors and voting Co-Opted/independent Members registered at least one gift or instance of hospitality during the year.

TABLE 1: Values of gifts and/or hospitality

Value	Number of items registered	
	Last Year (2008/09)	This Year (2009/10)
Less than £25	3	2
£25-£50	44	33
£50-£100	12	12
£100-£150	7	5
£150-£200	2	1
£200-£300	3	-
£300-£400	0	1
£400-£500	0	2
£500 or more	2	1

Approximate total value	£3,300	£3575
No value declared	0	0
No. of items valued at £25 or more	70	65
Average value of such items	£47	£65

NOTE to Table 1:

1. The Members' Code of Conduct does not *require* registration of items valued at less than £25. Members may, however, voluntarily register such items if they wish. The period of the register is from 18 May 2009 to 23 May 2010.

5.2 Access

The RGH was available for inspection, by appointment within normal working hours, at River Park House. It was also available on the Authority's website.

Under the terms of the 2007LGA and the new Members' Code of Conduct, the RGH has now been combined with the Register of Financial and Other Interests to form the Register of Interests. This means that, on the website, accessibility is affected by the opt-in option; as a consequence, RGH entries for Members who have not opted-in are no longer available online. All entries remain available for inspection at River Park House. For the year 2010/11 onwards, the Register of Members Interests minus home addresses will be placed on the Council's website unless individual Members specifically opt out of this.

6 Declarations of Interest

The definitions of "personal interest" and "prejudicial interest" are given in the Members' Code of Conduct.

A prejudicial interest is a personal interest which either relates to a Council regulatory function or affects the financial interests of the Member or relevant person and which would be perceived as so significant by a member of the public that the Member would be likely to be unable to judge the public interest. Thus all interests as defined by the Code are personal, with some that meet additional criteria being termed prejudicial.

Declaration of Interests is placed as a specific Item on the Agenda of every meeting of the Full Council and of every meeting of every serviced committee.

Council Minutes show there were 30 declarations of personal, non-prejudicial interest at meetings of the full Council during the whole year. There were 2 declarations of prejudicial interest.

7 Complaints about alleged failures to adhere to the Members' Code of Conduct

7.1 Complaints decided during the year

The number of complaints concerning alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct which were decided during the year is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Complaints decided during the year

	This Year	Last Year
Decided by an Ethical Standards Officer	0	1
Decided by the Adjudication Panel for England	0	0
Decided by the Standards Committee	4	5
No of Complaints received in 2009/10	3	3
No of Assessment Sub-Committees held	4	3
No of Complaints sent for investigation following Assessment Sub-Committee	1	4
No of complaints rejected at Assessment Sub-Committees	2	2
No of Review Sub- Committees held	1	n/a
No of Determination hearings held	3	nil

7.2 Complaints outstanding

As of 31 May 2010 there is 1 complaint being dealt with at various stages of the procedure which had not been finally dealt with and a further complaint received which is to be forwarded to an assessment sub-committee..

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REGISTRATION FORM FOR GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY – MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/10 (18 May 2009 – 23 May 2010)

Name	State Ward Or Position as Co-opted member	Set out brief Description of Gift or Hospitality offered	What do you estimate is the approximate value of gift or hospitality? £	Who offered you the gift or hospitality?	What date did you receive the gift or hospitality?	Did you retain the gift yourself, or did you donate it to a charity or deal with it in some other way?
G Adamou	Harringay					
C Adje	White Hart Lane	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£70.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained – donate £35 to Mayor's Charity
R Aitken	Crouch End	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£25.00 (over)	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
K Alexander	Harringay					
R Allison	Highgate					
K Amin	Northumberland Park	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
C Baker	Harringay					
D Basu	Seven Sisters	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
D Beacham	Alexandra					
J Bevan	Northumberland Park	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
		Tickets (5 Adults & 3 Children) for Zippo Circus	£128.00	Zippo Circus	12.10.09	Retained
		Ticket to Award Dinner at Grand Conaught Rooms	Over £25.00	Lovell Partnership Ltd	15.04.10	Retained

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S Beynon	Fortis Green					
J Bloch	Muswell Hill					
G Bull	White Hart Lane	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£70.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained – donate £50 to Mayor's Charity
E Butcher	Stroud Green	Lunch with the LIB/DEMs	£40.00 approx	Local Partnership	21.09.09	Retained
N Canver	St Ann's	Cypriot Women's League International Women's Day Gala Ticket to Turkish Federation Celebration	£25 - £30 £30.00 approx	Cypriot Women's League Turkish Federation	08.11.09 "	Retained Retained
M Cooke	Bounds Green	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Yes – donated £35 to Mayor's Charity
M Davies	Fortis Green					
A Demirci	Bounds Green	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Yes – donated £35 to Mayor's Charity
I Diakides	Tottenham Green	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace 15 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00 £455.00	Haringey Council Haringey Council	18.05.09 18.05.09	Retained Yes – Family & Friends - 4 unused
A Dobbie	Noel Park					
R Dodds	Bruce Grove					
D Dogus	Bruce Grove	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£70.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Yes – donated £35 to Mayor's Charity
P Egan	Woodside	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Dinner at Alexandra Palace	£70.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Yes – donated £35 to Mayor's

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						Charity
L Edge	Stroud Green					
G Engert	Muswell Hill					
J Goldberg	Seven Sisters	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained – donate £35 to Mayor's Charity
R Gorrie	Hornsey	Lunch with Lib/Dems	£40.00 approx	Local Partnerships	21.09.09	Retained
E Griffith	West Green	12 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£420.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained – donate £35 to Mayor's Charity
B Haley	St Ann's					
B Hare	Highgate					
B Harris	St Ann's					
C Harris	Noel Park					
E Jones	Bruce Grove					
Gmmh R Khan	West Green	LGA Conference and Dinner – Harrogate	Over £25.00	Haringey Council LGA & other Sponsors	29/6 – 2/7/09	Retained
C Kober	Seven Sisters	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
		1 Ticket to the Children and Young People now Award Ceremony	£50.00	4 Children a Children's Charity	26.11.09	Retained
		Dinner for London Local Authority	£40.00	London Councils/	09.09.09	Retained

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		Leaders		City of London		
H Lister	Tottenham Green					
A Mallett	West Green	2 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace	£70.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
		Return Rail Tickets from Kings X to Peterborough – Scrutiny Review Training course	£26.00	Haringey Council	18.12.09	Retained
G Meehan	Woodside	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Dinner at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
F Mughal	Noel Park					
M Newton	Fortis Green					
J Oakes	Bounds Green					
S Oatway	Alexandra					
J Patel	Woodside					
S Peacock	Northumberland Park	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Dinner at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained
		1 Ticket for Annual Dinner and Dance at The Irish Centre	£25.00	The Irish Centre	03.10.09	"
		Ticket to Concert and Dinner at Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal	£24.50	Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd	24.11.09	"
		2 Tickets to attend Spirit of London Awards	£25.00	"	27.11.09	"

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S Rainger	Muswell Hill	2 Tickets to attend Semi-finals of PDC Darts Competition	£25.00	"	19.12.09	
E Reid	Hornsey	1 Bottle of Brandy	£25.00	A resident	01.07.09	Retained
L Reith	Tottenham Hale	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Dinner at Alexandra Palace Box of Turkish delight, CD and guide book of Turkey	£35.00 £25.00	Haringey Council Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports	18.05.09 09.02.10	Retained – donate £35 to Mayor's Charity Retained
L Santry	White Hart Lane	1 Tickets for Mayor Making Dinner at Alexandra Palace	£35.00	Haringey Council	18.05.09	Retained – donate £35 to Mayor's Charity
N Scott	Alexandra					
A Stanton	Tottenham Hale					
SG Thompson	Tottenham Hale	2 Tickets for Jay-Z Concert at Alexandra Palace 1 Ticket for Morrissey Concert at Alexandra Palace 2 Tickets for Spirit of London Awards 2 Tickets for Boxing Match at Alexandra Palace	£25.00 (over) £25.00 (over) £25.00 (over) £25.00 (over)	Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd	10.11.09 05.11.09 27.11.09 09.04.10	Retained Retained Retained Retained
B Vanier MAYOR	Tottenham Green	24 Tickets for Mayor Making Reception at Alexandra Palace 2 Tickets for Dinner at La Royale Tottenham	£840.00 (24 @ 35.00) £80.00	Haringey Council Friends of Noel Homes Memorial	18.05.09 06.06.09	Retained Retained

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		2 Tickets for Dinner & Dance at The Grand Palace, Wood Green	£130.00	Assoc of Jamaicans	01.08.09	Retained
		2 Tickets for Carnival Splash	£30.00	Carnival Splash	22.08.09	Retained
		Tickets to Dinner for Spirit of London Awards	£50.00	Damilola Taylor Trust	27.11.09	Retained
		Fostering and Adoption Dinner for Carers	£50.00	Haringey Council	04.12.09	Retained
		Christmas Dinner for African and Caribbean Pensioners	£15.00	ACLC Centre	16.12.09	Retained
		Tickets to Fundraising Gala Dinner for Boxing	£100.00	Haringey Police Amateur Boxing Club	23.04.10	Retained
		2 Tickets to Seafield & Golden Grove Fundraising Dinner	£110.00	Seafield & Golden Grove Ham Walk Association	23.05.10	Retained
B Vanier Mayor		Bottle of Champagne and Wine	£30.00 approx	Jean Croot donate gift from member of the public	01.09.09	Donated to Special Fund
		Silk Scarf from China	£30.00 approx	Andrew Meek donate gift given by Chinese delegation	16.12.09	Donated to Special Fund
		Hand stitched silk picture of Lychees in frame	Over £25.00	"	"	Civic Gift kept in Mayor's Parlour
		Food Hamper in Wicker box	£100.00	Education IT contractor	22.12.09	Donated to Special Fund
		2 Spurs T-Shirt signed by Players/	£80.00 & 60.00	Tottenham Hotspurs	01.03.10	Donated to

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L Weber	Crouch End	Manager and Pendant Selection of wines for Mayor's Charity Dinner Selection of various Gifts in 5 Bags plus 8 Easter Eggs	£300.00 £200.00	Morrisons – Wood Green Tesco's – Edmonton Superstore	01.03.10 01.03.10	Special Fund Donated to Special Fund Donated to Special Fund
M Whyte	Hornsey					
N Williams	Highgate					
R Wilson	Stroud Green					
D Winskill	Crouch End					

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06.07.10

CO-OPTEEES							
Name	State Ward Or Position as Co-opted member	Set out brief Description of Gift or Hospitality offered	What do you estimate is the approximate value of gift or hospitality? £	Who offered you the gift or hospitality?	What date did you receive the gift or hospitality?	Did you retain the gift yourself, or did you donate it to a charity or deal with it in some other way?	
R Lovegrove	Independent Member of Standards Committee						
C Sykes	Independent Member of Standards Committee						
A Loyd	Independent Member of Standards Committee						
R Chambers J Batterham	Independent Member of Standards Committee						

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