

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON Monday, 7th March, 2016,7.00pm

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Liz Morris, Lorna Reith and Raj Sahota (Chair) Cllr Reg Rice,
Councillor Liz McShane.**

36. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Committee noted the arrangements in respect of filming at meetings, as outlined by the Chair.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor James Ryan and Councillor Elin Weston. Councillors Reg Rice and Councillor Liz McShane substituted

38. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no matters of urgent business to consider.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

40. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 15th of October meeting were agreed, subject to adding Councillor Beacham's name to the list of attendees.

41. VERBAL REPORT OF THE ASST DIRECTOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

The Assistant Director Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer's Principal Lawyer Ms Vydulinska advised the Committee that, since the last meeting in October, there had been no new referrals/complaints.

42. MEMBER'S ALLOWANCE SCHEME

The Committee noted that each year, before 31st March, full Council is required by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to adopt a Members Allowances Scheme for the following financial year.

The Committee were advised that before adoption of a Members Allowances Scheme, the Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of Members Allowances.

The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 allow London Boroughs to use an independent remuneration panel set up for the purpose of making recommendations across London. London Councils set up a panel for this purpose in 2001 and we considered its most recent report which was published in June 2014 and attached as Appendix 3. The Committee noted that although the IRP makes recommendations, it is for each individual council to decide the level of remuneration and for which roles. The Committee further noted that the 2014 recommendations had been considered in the preparation of the proposals at Appendix 1.

The Committee noted that there were no proposals to change the level of allowances. There were only small amendments to the scheme which related to year for which the Scheme will operate, and some minor clarifications relating to the description of co-optees for consistency. These are set out in italics at appendix 2 of the report.

RESOLVED

To recommend to full Council on the 17th of March:

1. The revocation of the Members Allowances Scheme for 2015/16 as of 31st March 2016; and
2. The approval of the proposed new Members Allowances Scheme for 2016-17 as set out in Appendix 2 to this report to take effect from 1st April 2016.

43. NEW ITEMS OF UNRESTRICTED URGENT BUSINESS

None

44. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

13th of June 2016.

45. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded the from the meeting for consideration of Item 11 as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paragraphs 1 & 2; namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

46. RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND STAFFING AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Committee had previously agreed in October 2015 the commencement of a recruitment process to seek an Independent Person (to commence office on 1 July 2016 for a four year term). Interviews for the position took place on 27 January 2016 and the Interview Panel consisted of Councillors Morris, Reith and Sahota. The committee Chair remarked that there had been a thorough recruitment process facilitated by Legal and Democratic services.

The Committee continued to consider the report attached at appendix 4, which contained the legal requirements for appointing an independent person, and listed their duties and required work for the council. The Committee noted that there had been a strong shortlist of candidates, and the two recommended candidates had been chosen according to their working experience and knowledge of local government.

RESOLVED

To recommend to full Council on the 17th of March:

1. To appoint Lisa Klein as Independent Person, and Alison Lowton as secondary Independent Person under s28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 for a period of 4 years commencing 1 July 2016 and ending on 30 June 2020;
2. To approve the allowance paid per annum to the Independent Person, and Secondary Independent person be £1250.00 and £250.00 respectively.

47. EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve the exempt minutes of the 15th of October, subject to the addition of Cllr Beacham to the attendees.

48. ANY OTHER EXEMPT BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

None

CHAIR: Councillor Raj Sahota

Signed by Chair

Date