

## **REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **FULL COUNCIL 24 JULY 2017**

Chair: Councillor Amin

### **INTRODUCTION**

At our meeting of 6 July, we considered the report at Annex A, which recommended changes to the Council's constitution. The Council Constitution governs the organisation of Council decision-making. It is kept under review and when necessary, amendments are proposed to Standards Committee for consideration and recommendation on to full Council, in accordance with Article 14.03 (Changes to the Constitution).

This report was originally brought to the Standards Committee for consideration on 7th March 2017. Members were of the view that a briefing on the report would be beneficial and the report was deferred. A briefing for members was held on 4th May 2017. The briefing was well received and no objections were raised to the proposals put forward. An audio recording of the briefing of the session is available to all members on the FUSE training platform.

### **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2017/18**

We considered the report on the proposed changes to the Constitution, which were in four main areas:

- a) Noting the establishment of a joint sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with Islington Council, and consequent changes to the terms of reference of the HWB at Part 3 Section B of the Constitution, together with clarifications within the Articles
- b) Removing the Council and Employees Joint Consultative sub-committee from the Constitution (to be replaced by an informal body by Staffing and Remuneration Committee) at Part 3 Section B
- c) Reviewing the Statutory, Proper and Specified Officer functions within the Officer Scheme of Delegation at Part 3 Section E
- d) Other minor amendments to the Constitution for clarification purposes

We agreed that the changes in the report should be recommended to Full Council for approval.

We also agreed that there should be a further review of the Member-Officer protocol at Part Five Section B of the Constitution, and the procedures of the Council, largely set out in Part 4 of the Council's constitution. This further work should report back to the Council by the end of the Municipal Year.

In addition to the recommendations in the report to the Committee, shown at Annex 1, we agreed that the threshold for registering gifts and hospitality should be set at £25, rather than the £50 threshold at present. We agreed that this should be inserted

into the Members' Code of Conduct and for the lower threshold to be reflected in the definition of Members' Personal Interests, in Part 2 section 5 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

## **WE RECOMMEND**

That Full Council:

- a) Note the establishment of a joint sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board with Islington Council and consequently, agree the following amendments to the Constitution:
  - (i) Part 2, 'Articles' at paragraph 4.02 (v) and 10.09 (Appendix 6);
  - (ii) Part 3, Section B 'Responsibility for functions: Full Council and Non-Executive Bodies' at Section 1 paragraph 1(v) and Section 2 paragraph 8.1 (Appendix 1)
- b) Note the removal of the Council and Employees Joint Consultative Committee at Part 3, Section B 'Responsibility for functions: Full Council and Non-Executive Bodies' at Section 3 paragraph 1 (Appendix 1); and associated amendment at Part 4, Section B 'Committee Procedure Rules' rule 58 (Appendix 7), following the decision of the Staffing and remuneration Committee to dissolve this sub-committee;
- c) Approve changes to Statutory, Proper and Specified Officer functions within the Officer Scheme of Delegation together with minor amendments, for clarification purposes, as set out at:
  - (i) Part 3, Section E Officer Scheme of Delegation at Section 3 'Delegations to the Chief Executive and Statutory Officers' (Appendix 2);
  - (ii) Part 3, Section E Officer Scheme of Delegation at Section 4 'Proper Officer and Specified Officer Functions' (Appendix 3);
- d) Approve minor amendments to the Constitution for clarification purposes, as set out at:
  - (i) Part 2, 'Articles' (Appendix 6);
  - (ii) Part 3, Section B 'Responsibility for functions: Full Council and Non-Executive Bodies' at Section 1 paragraph 1(g) and Section 3 (Appendix 1);
  - (iii) Part 3, Section D 'Responsibility for functions: Local Choice Functions' at point 16 (Appendix 4);
  - (iv) Part 3, New Section DA 'Responsibility for functions: Joint Committees and arrangements', to record such arrangements entered into by the Council where these joint committees carry out functions on behalf of the authority (Appendix 5);
  - (v) Part 4, Section B 'Committee Procedure Rules' (Appendix 7)

- e) Approve the following work streams to be taken forward to update and maintain the Constitution:
- (i) Following the departure of the AD for Corporate Property and Major projects, there will need to be further amendments to the Officer Scheme of Delegation. Council is asked to authorise appropriate amendments to be made to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer.  
Until the reallocation of responsibilities has been determined by the Chief Executive, the existing rules identifying the relevant officer(s) to make decisions in the absence of the AD Corporate Property and Major Projects will pertain;
  - (ii) A review of the Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution in order to reduce duplication and inconsistencies, and make them easier to follow. These changes will be reported to Standards Committee in due course and on to full Council thereafter;
  - (iii) A review of the Planning Protocol (currently outside the Constitution) is being carried out by Planning Sub-Committee and Regulatory Committee. This will be reported to the Standards Committee in September 2017 for approval as part of the Constitution, and for confirmation by full Council thereafter;
  - (iv) A wholesale review of the Member – Officer Protocol, to reflect changes to the Council structure, governance, and officer powers, and bring the document up-to-date with current practices. These changes will be reported to Standards Committee in due course and on to full Council thereafter.
- f) Approve the changes to the Members' Code of Conduct to reflect the need to register gifts and hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25, as set out at Annex 2