

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21ST JULY, 2016

- Councillors Present:** Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie and Cllr Jessica Webb (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
- Co-optees Present:** Julia Bennett, George Gross, Adedoja Labinjo and Onagete Louison
- Apologies:** Councillor Sally Mulready and Councillor Clare Potter
- Officers in Attendance:** Patricia Narebor (Head of Commercial) and Robert Walker (Governance Services Officer)
- Also in Attendance:** Jonathan Stopes-Roe (Independent Person)

1 Apologies for absence

- 1.1 As listed above.
- 1.2 An apology for absence was also received from Yinka Owa, Director of Legal.

2 Declarations of interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of previous meetings

- 3.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the:
- i) Meeting on 21st January 2016;
 - ii) Special meeting on 27th January 2016; and the
 - iii) Extraordinary meeting on 25th May 2016, subject to an amendment to specify that Cllr Webb was elected vice-chair of the Committee;
- be approved as true and accurate records.
- 3.2 The Committee noted the following as matters arising from its recommendations on the Members' Training and Development Programme at its meeting on 21st January 2016 under item 6:
- a) Bruce Deville, Head of Governance and Business Development, was now responsible for overseeing the Members' Development Programme;

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- b) Disability awareness training, and safety and aggression training shall be added to the Member training programme for 2016/17 – dates to be confirmed;
 - c) Training on Members becoming disabled whilst in office: Bruce Deville would like to clarify the scope of this training but had been unable to contact Cllr Mulready. He will attempt to contact Cllr Mulready again to discuss the recommended training;
 - d) Risk assessments of Member surgeries had not yet been undertaken. However, Bruce Deville had been in wider discussion with the majority group whip regarding security arrangements for surgeries. Further discussions were due to take place following recess to put support and security measures in place.
- 3.3 Councillor Ben Hayhurst encouraged the Council to review safety arrangements for Members' surgeries as soon as possible. He also stated that he believed that the Standards Committee should be responsible for reviewing safety arrangements for Member surgeries, if no other committee was doing so, as he believed it was an important area and one which should be overseen by Members.

4 Standards Committee Terms of Reference

- 4.1 The Standards Committee noted its terms of reference for 2016/17.

5 Standards Committee Draft Annual Report 2015/16

- 5.1 Patricia Narebor, Head of Commercial (Legal Services), introduced the Standards Committee's Annual Report 2015/16, which was scheduled to be presented to Full Council on 30th November 2016.
- 5.2 Julia Bennett advised that she had not attended the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee meeting on 25th February 2016, as stated within the Annual Report. The Committee noted that this was an error and that Adedoja Labinjo had in fact attended this meeting.
- 5.3 **RESOLVED** that the Standards Committee endorses its 2015/16 Annual Report for submission to Full Council, subject to an amendment as identified in paragraph 5.2 above.

6 Standards Committee Draft Work Programme 2016/17

- 6.1 Patricia Narebor, Head of Commercial (Legal Services), introduced the report on the Committee's draft work programme for 2016/17 and invited comments.
- 6.2 Julia Bennett queried if a report on whistleblowing could be brought to the next meeting of the Committee. Julia Bennett advised that in the past the Committee had received reports on the Council's whistleblowing policy and she advised that this report had been very useful in helping the Committee to maintain oversight of the Council's ethical framework.

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- 6.3 The Committee also requested an update at its next meeting on safety arrangements for Member surgeries.
- 6.4 Patricia Narebor agreed to refer the above requests for additional reports to the Director of Legal to confirm if they were within the Committee's terms of reference. Subject to the Director of Legal's agreement, a report on whistleblowing and an update on safety arrangements at Member surgeries would be brought to next meeting.
- 6.5 **RESOLVED** that the Committee's work programme for 2016/17 be approved subject paragraph 6.4 above.

Duration of the meeting: 6.30 - 6.50 pm

Signed

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Chair of Committee

Contact:

Robert Walker, Governance Services