

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 2ND JULY, 2018

Councillors Present: Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble in the Chair
Cllr Jessica Webb (Vice-Chair), Cllr Sem Moema,
Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Caroline Woodley,
Cllr Humaira Garasia and Cllr Katie Hanson

Co optees Present Onagete Louison and Adedoja Labinjo

Officers in Attendance: Dawn Carter-McDonald
Tess Merrett

1 Approval of Chair and Vice Chair as nominated at the AGM

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination by Full Council of Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble as Chair of the Standards Committee and Cllr Jessica Webb as Vice-chair of the Standards Committee

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Alex Kuye and apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Humaira Garasia

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

4 Minutes from the previous meeting

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 February 2018 as a true record.

5 Standards Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee noted the terms of reference.

6 Draft Standards Committee Annual Report

Deputy Mayor Bramble said that this was the second annual report under her remit. She expressed her disappointment that the opposition members had not taken up their place on the committee.

Monday, 2nd July, 2018

In terms of forward planning, Deputy Mayor Bramble had spoken to the Chief Whip and the Chief Executive about undertaking safeguarding training for members and this was being explored.

Deputy Mayor Bramble gave particular thanks to her vice-chair, Cllr Jessica Webb and long standing member of the committee Cllr Katie Hanson.

Dawn Carter-McDonald highlighted the following areas of the report

- The Members' Code of Conduct
- The Members' training and development programme
- Complaints about Member conduct
- Committee of Standards in Public Life consultation

Ade Labinjo said that the co-optees had not appeared to have received any invites for member training. Officers said that they would ensure that the co-optees were invited to any relevant member training.

It was suggested that some training on behaviour around social media would be beneficial for Members

Cllr Hanson asked if it would be possible to receive the statistics on the number of complaints against members. A review of this would be brought to the next meeting.

Dawn Carter-McDonald outlined the procedure for complaints and advised the committee that the form and guidance was being reviewed. This would be brought to the next Standards Committee meeting.

It was noted that the final bullet point in 6.3 should be removed.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the co-opted members of the Committee be invited to any relevant training sessions arranged for Members.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to endorse the Annual Report for submission to Full Council with the agreed amendment to paragraph 6.3 of the report.

7 Dispensation Report

Dawn Carter-McDonald introduced the report.

Cllr Sem Moema asked for clarification around Members' addresses and telephone numbers being given out by officers. Officers assured the Committee that Members' addresses and telephone numbers were not given out to members of the public. Cllr Jess Webb said that some Members however did give their numbers out.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree a dispensation for all Members to withhold their private addresses from the published Register of Interest Forms on the London Borough of Hackney's website.

8 Standards Committee Work Programme

Monday, 2nd July, 2018

The Committee discussed the work programme in detail. Committee Members thought that some further good practice around Conduct could be developed such as scenario planning on different situations Members may encounter in their public duties. The Committee members suggested that Members should be involved in this.

Cllr Bramble said that the slides from the Code of Conduct training would be circulated with a covering letter reminding Members of their obligations around standards in public life.

It was also noted that there was a lot of helpful information already in the public domain from the Local Government Association for example and this could be circulated to Members.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the draft work programme for 2018/2019 with the following additions for the meeting in February 2019

- Review of the Member complaints process and form.
- Review of the number of complaints about Members received during the year.
- Review of any good practice on Member conduct introduced.

Duration of Meeting 1 hour and 5 minutes

Signed

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Chair of Committee

Contact:

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