



## Standards Committee

13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

### Report from the Borough Solicitor

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Annual Work Programme 2007/8

### 1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the work of the Standards Committee over the past municipal year and also contains a proposed work programme for the committee for the forthcoming municipal year for 2007/8.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members agree the proposed work programme for 2007/8.

### 3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Standards Committee agreed the work programme for 2006/2007 at its meeting on 7 June 2006. A copy of the 2006/2007 work programme, as agreed by the committee, is attached as **Appendix 1** for the information of members. The Committee's consideration of the 2006/2007 work programme is summarised below.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 7 June 2006 the Committee noted two reports: *Annual Conduct Letter by Monitoring Officer* and *Guidance on the granting of dispensations by the Standards Committee*. The Committee also considered a draft guide for the hearing of allegations of misconduct and agreed amendments to the draft.
- 3.3 At its second meeting, on 11 October 2006, the Committee considered the *Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer* and the *Annual Review of Register of*

*Gifts and Hospitality.* The Committee also received a report regarding twinning resources and progress. Members will recall that twinning was added to the 2006/2007 work programme on the request of the Committee (at its meeting on 7 June 2007 meeting).

- 3.4 Members will note that a report on *Guidance on membership of outside bodies*, which was also included in the 2006/2007 work programme, was due to be presented to the Committee at its meeting on 11 October 2006. Due to a delay in finalising this report it was not submitted to the Committee at this time but Members will note that it has now been added to the proposed 2007/2008 work programme.
- 3.5 Also at the Committee's 11 October 2007 meeting, the possibility of a networking event during November was discussed. Unfortunately the planned speaker was unable to attend and it was decided to attempt to obtain the speaker for an event date in March 2007 instead.
- 3.6 At its meeting on 17 January 2007 the Committee considered and noted the *Annual Review of the Member Development Programme 2005/6*. It also noted the *Annual Review of Members Interests* and noted that in future this report will be part of the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Standards Committee. At this meeting the Committee also received and noted a report on the *Planning Code of Practice Review* and a report from the Borough Solicitor providing some of the latest statistics provided by the Standards Board for England on the number of complaints received and decisions made on allegations of misconduct.
- 3.7 One other item of business has been added to this agenda, namely a report on the proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct.
- 3.8 Members will note that there have been no hearings in the last municipal year.
- 3.9 A proposed work programme for 2007/8 is attached for approval at **Appendix 2**. Members will note that there are number of annual reports which, by their very nature, will appear on each annual work programme. There are also a number off *ad hoc* reports which deal with current issues, such as the report on *Guidance to Members on Outside Bodies*. Other items may be added to the work programme from time to time if necessary. The committee will also need to meet to consider allegations of misconduct from time to time and these meetings will be in addition to the scheduled meetings.
- 3.10 A schedule of meeting dates will be agreed by the Council at its annual meeting in May.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Standards Committee may only operate within its defined terms of reference as set out in the Constitution. These are attached at **Appendix 3** for information. There are no other legal implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Officers believe that there are no specific diversity implications in this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

7.1 None

If any person has any queries on this report they should contact the report author, Terry Osborne, Borough Solicitor, on telephone number 0208 937 1292.

**Terry Osborne**  
**Borough Solicitor**

## Appendix 1

### WORK PROGRAMME 2006/2007

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.	Standards Committee procedures	7 June 2006
2.	Annual Conduct Letter by Monitoring Officer	7 June 2006
3.	Work Programme 2006-07	7 June 2006
4.	Guidance on the granting of dispensations by the Standards Committee	7 June 2006
5.	Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer	11 October 2006
6.	Annual Review of Register of Gifts and Hospitality	11 October 2006
7.	Annual Review of Members' Interests	11 October 2006
8.	Guidance on membership of outside bodies	11 October 2006 (outstanding)
9.	Report re twinning resources and progress	11 October 2006
10.	Possible Networking Event	October 2006 (cancelled)
11.	Annual Review of the Member Development Programme	17 January 2007
12.	Annual Standards Board Statistics	17 January 2007
13.	Annual Review of the Planning and Licensing Codes of Practice	17 January 2007
14.	Networking Event	13 March 2007

## Appendix 1

### Proposed Work Programme for 2007/8

**Dates of meeting:** To be announced

	<b>Name of report</b>	<b>Proposed date</b>
<b>1</b>	Annual conduct letter	Meeting 1
<b>2</b>	Guidance on membership of outside bodies	Meeting 1
<b>3</b>	Local government white paper	Meeting 1
<b>4</b>	Annual report of the Monitoring officer (including the review of member interests and review of gifts and hospitality)	Meeting 2
<b>5</b>	Annual review of members' expenses	Meeting 2
<b>6</b>	Members' allowances	Meeting 2
<b>7</b>	Local investigations procedures	Meeting 3
<b>8</b>	Annual review of Licensing Code of practice	Meeting 3
<b>9</b>	Annual review of Standards Board statistics	Meeting 3
<b>10</b>	Annual review of the Planning code of Practice	Meeting 4
<b>11</b>	Annual review of the member development programme	Meeting 4
<b>12</b>	Annual Work programme for 2008/9	Meeting 4
<b>13</b>	Annual networking event	Special meeting

## **Appendix 3**

### **Terms of Reference for the Brent Standards Committee**

The committee is responsible for the following functions:-

1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members including any co-opted members.
2. To assist members and co-opted members to observe the Brent Members' Code of Conduct, the Planning Code of Practice, the Licensing Code of Practice and any other code of conduct or practice which is adopted ("the Codes").
3. To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Codes.
4. To monitor the operation and effectiveness of, and compliance with, the Codes and to recommend changes.
5. To advise members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Codes and on any other matters related to their conduct and treatment of their personal interests.
6. To provide or arrange training for members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Codes.
7. To receive reports from the Monitoring Officer.
8. In accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensation) Regulations 2002, to grant dispensations to councillors and co-opted members, in respect of participation in any business which they would otherwise be prohibited from participating in by virtue of any provision in the Brent Members Code of Conduct.
9. To be responsible for any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer or any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer.