

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Monday, 15th October 2007 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: John Mann (Chair, Independent Member), Rochelle Gelman (Vice-Chair, Independent Member) and Councillors Powney and Sneddon.

Apologies for absence for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Colwill.

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th July 2007 be approved as an accurate record subject to the deletion of Councillor Leaman and the substitution of Councillor Sneddon in the list of members present.

3. Changes to the Planning Code of Practice, Licensing Code of Practice and the Protocol of Members' Rights to Access to Information

The report before members discussed the changes that are required to be made to the Planning Code of Practice, Licensing Code of Practice and the Protocol of Members' Rights to Access to Information as a result of the adoption of the new Code of Conduct by the Council.

The Borough Solicitor gave an update on the Code of Conduct since its adoption in September. The review of the Planning Code was on-going and consideration may need to be given to further changes at the next meeting.

The Committee considered each of the Codes in turn. In respect of the Planning Code it was agreed to further clarify the procedure for members declaring interests and withdrawing from the meeting for the duration of the item concerned. It was noticed that there appeared to be an inconsistency between the procedure for members putting questions at the General Purposes Licensing Sub-Committee and the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committees however it was agreed that this could be dealt with in a future report. The Committee also pointed out a number of minor inconsistencies within the text of the Planning Code and the Licensing Code and authorised the Borough Solicitor to correct these and to make any other amendments she considered necessary to ensure appropriate wording, the changes to be indicated in the report to Full Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Full Council be recommended to adopt the changes to the Planning Code of Practice, the Licensing Code of Practice and the Protocol on Members' Rights of Access to Information set out in this report;

- (iii) that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make any other minor amendments arising this meeting and otherwise as necessary for inclusion in the report to Full Council;
- (ii) that it be noted that the changes to the Planning Code of Practice, the Licensing Code or Practice and the Protocol on Members' Rights of Access to Information recommended in the report from the Borough Solicitor were required as a consequence of adopting the new Code of Conduct and were required to ensure consistency between the two Codes.

4. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Standards Committee would take place on 30th January 2008. The Vice-Chair indicated that she would not be able to be present however would ensure that any comments she had on the reports were submitted in time for the meeting

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

J MANN
Chair

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