



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE Thursday 7 January 2016 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Dixon (Chair), Councillors Kabir (Vice-Chair) and Collier, Krupa Sheth and Warren, and Independent Member Ms Sheila Darr

1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None declared.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 October 2015 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

Members' Code of Conduct and Members' Gifts and Hospitality Protocol

It was noted that Full Council had approved the revised Members' Code of Conduct and the Members' Gifts and Hospitality Protocol as recommended by the Standards Committee.

4. Review of Member Development Programme and Members' Expenses

The committee considered the circulated report which outlined the member learning and development sessions delivered for members since December 2014 and the upcoming quarterly programme.

Consideration was given to which sessions might be regarded as mandatory and how attendance at these could be encouraged. The Chair stated that the Council should set out to achieve a culture of learning and development where members wanted to attend the sessions rather than being told which ones they had to attend. It was noted that the Member Development Steering Group was considering this issue.

RESOLVED:

That the report submitted be noted.

5. Annual Report to the Standards Committee 2014 - 2015

The committee considered the circulated report of the Monitoring Officer which updated members on conduct issues and the work of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer for the period December 2014 to December 2015.

The committee was informed that the process of recruiting Independent Persons would begin later in January. Councillor Warren commented on the involvement of the Independent Person. He proposed that the Independent Person should be given a higher profile in order to give the role greater credibility by bringing forward their role in the process of considering complaints. Concern was expressed that this could potentially undermine the position of the Monitoring Officer and that such an arrangement was not followed in other boroughs.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Monitoring Officer's Annual report 2014/15 be noted;
- (ii) that the procedure for dealing with complaints be considered at the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Noted – to be held on 21 March 2016.

7. Any other urgent business

None.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

L DIXON
Chair