



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# MINUTES

## Standards Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Standards Committee** held on **Thursday 22nd February, 2024**, Room 18.01, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

**Members Present:** Councillors Md Shamsed Chowdhury, Sara Hassan, Tim Mitchell and Ruth Bush (Chair)

**Also Present:** Asif Iqbal MBE (Independent Person)

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Louise Hyams

#### 1 MEMBERSHIP

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

#### 3 MINUTES

##### 3.1 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

#### 4 BIENNIAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

4.1 The Monitoring Officer introduced the Biennial Standards Committee Report and advised that this was the third of these reports which had been produced. The report sets out the work of the Standards Committee over the last two years and includes a Statement of Ethical Standards. It will be recommended to Full Council for noting.

4.2 She noted that the report now includes the Nolan Principles and highlighted that in the last two years the Committee had reviewed the rules of debate at

Council meetings; developed guidance on personal safety for Members; revised the Member/Officer Protocol; arranged for Code of Conduct training.

- 4.3 The Committee discussed the format of the report and asked that it be revised in terms of colours, images used and the orientation of the report. There was a request to include photographs of the Independent Persons and the former Chair of the Committee in the section at the end of the report.
- 4.4 It was agreed that a revised version of the report will be prepared and distributed to the Committee for comments and approval.

## **5 WORK PROGRAMME**

- 5.1 Cllr Chowdhury asked that a review of the Member/Officer Protocol be included in the Work Programme for 2024-25. He advised that as the Protocol was developed in 2022 some of the newly elected Councillors would not have had time to constructively feed into the consultation on the Protocol.
- 5.2 Cllr Hassan asked that the issue of diversity be included in the review of the Member/Officer Protocol and this was agreed.
- 5.3 The Committee agreed this should be added to the work programme and suggested that it should be added to the February 2025 meeting.
- 5.4 The Monitoring Officer advised that the work to review the Protocol would start over the coming months in order that a fully formulated document could be reviewed by the Committee at the February 2025 meeting.
- 5.5 The Chair asked that any consultation be run via the Leaders of both Groups as well as the Whips.
- 5.6 Due to lack of business the Committee agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 11 July 2024.

## **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Meeting ended at 7.10pm

**CHAIRMAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_