



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# MINUTES

## Standards Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Standards Committee** held on **Thursday 17th March, 2016**, Rooms 3 & 4 - 17th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6 QP.

**Members Present:** Councillors Judith Warner (Chairman), Ian Adams, David Boothroyd, Ruth Bush, Brian Connell and Louise Hyams

**Also Present:** Mr Gerard McEilly

#### 1 MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes to the membership. The Chairman introduced Mr Gerard McEilly (Independent Person) who was attending his first meeting.

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

#### 4 REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT (SEE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW)

4.1 Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Law, introduced the report. She advised that a meeting had been held with all of the Independent Persons and their input reflected in the report.

4.2 The draft Code had also been sent to the Leader, Deputy Leaders and Chief Whips of both groups.

4.3 The Chairman asked Mr McEilly, Independent Person, to advise of any issues which had been raised by the Independent Persons but had not been reflected in the report. Mr McEilly advised that the only issue was if the

Nolan Principles should be included in the Code and if so either at the beginning or appended to the Code.

- 4.4 The Committee discussed this particular issue and agreed that a reference to the Nolan Principles be included at the end of the Code and a summary appended. It would, however, be made clear that these did not form part of the Code.
- 4.5 During the course of the discussion Members made minor drafting suggestions which the Director of Law advised would be reflected in drafting updates. It was also noted that the flow chart required updating.
- 4.6 The Committee welcomed the proposal to detail the possible penalties arising from breaches of the Code as a footnote.
- 4.7 The Committee also welcomed the suggestion that a pocket size guide to the Code and a plain English version be produced.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the revised Members Code of Conduct, Appendix A to the report be recommended for adoption and the General Purposes Committee be asked to recommend to the Council its inclusion in the Council's Constitution and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make minor drafting adjustments including those suggested by the Committee in consultation with the Chairman and the Committee.
- (ii) That training in the new code for all Members and Co-opted Members be provided for all members by the Monitoring Officer and the take up to be reported in a future meeting.
- (iii) That all Members be asked to confirm their compliance with the Code by signing the declaration generally upon election.

That the dispensation arrangements previously approved and set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report be endorsed subject to the Monitoring Officer making any necessary drafting changes to ensure clarity.

**5 UPDATE ON TRAINING (SEE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES)**

- 5.1 Members asked that a more detailed report be submitted to the next meeting.

**Resolved:** That a more detailed report be submitted to the next meeting.

**6 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (SEE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES)**

- 6.1 The Committee asked that a report on Data Protection be added for consideration at a future meeting.

6.2 The Committee also asked that the Committee's concern at the delay in issuing the structure chart and Directory be forwarded to the Director of Policy, Performance and Communication.

**Resolved:** That subject to 6.1 above the Work Programme be approved.

## 7 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Meeting ended at 8.00 pm

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

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