
REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2006

Chairman:	* The Right Revd Peter Broadbent	
Councillors:	* Mrs Lurline Champagnie (1) * B E Gate * Mrs Kinnear	* Joyce Nickolay * Phillip O'Dell * Tom Weiss (2)
Independent Persons:	* Ms Sheila Darr * Dr J Kirkland	* Mr Mohammad Rizvi

* Denotes Member present
(1) and (2) Denote category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL
PART II - MINUTES

- Appointment of Chairman:**
Further to the report of the Director of Corporate Governance, it was

RESOLVED: That the Right Reverend Peter Broadbent be appointed Chairman of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2006/07.
- Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Janet Cowan Councillor Jean Lammiman	Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie Councillor Tom Weiss
- Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.
- Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda items be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
11. Review of the Code of Conduct – The Code of Conduct	A Member had requested that a copy of the Code of Conduct be circulated so that it could be considered together the report, in order to make an informed decision.
16. Report to Future Meetings	The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated. Members were asked to consider this item urgently in order to agree the timetable for future reports.

(2) all business be considered with the press and public present.
- Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2006, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

6. **Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rules 19, 16 and 17 (Part 4B of the Constitution) respectively.

7. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**

Further to the report of the Director of Corporate Governance, it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Joyce Nickolay be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

8. **Establishment of Panels:**

Further to the nominations submitted, and the revised nominations tabled, in respect of this Committee's subsidiary body memberships and to the office of Chairman as appropriate, it was

RESOLVED: That the Panels of the Standards Committee be established for the Municipal Year 2006/07 with the Chairman and memberships as detailed in the appendix to these minutes.

9. **Review of the Code of Conduct:**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Corporate Governance, which informed Members of the Government's proposals to reassess the Code of Conduct.

Members requested that the Committee be included in the consultation process and that the draft proposals be brought to a future meeting for comments.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

10. **Enforcement of the Code of Conduct:**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Corporate Governance, which advised Members of the various procedures that had been adopted by the Authority for enforcement of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members.

The officer summarised the stages of enforcement and directed Members to the Standards Board Bulletin for information regarding referrals and statistics on reported allegations of breaches.

In response to Members' concerns in relation to the whistle blowing policy and the protection for the whistle blowers identity, the Committee were advised that the whistle blower would be fully briefed of all the stages of any breach prior to the divulgence of information.

Some Members expressed concern in relation to the confidentiality aspect of the notification process of complaints to the Standards Committee Members. Under current practice, the Monitoring Officer (MO) referred the complaint, together with a covering report from either the Ethical Standards Officer (ESO) or Local Investigating Officer (LIO) to Standards Committee Members. At this stage the papers were provided on a confidential basis and an undertaking was sought by those who were party to those papers. Officers were asked to review this clause and report back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

11. **Officer Code of Conduct:**

The Director of Corporate Governance presented a report to the Committee on the Officer Code of Conduct.

Members noted the contents of the Employees' Code of Conduct and the location of the register for employees to declare gifts and hospitality. The officer confirmed that the Code was part of an employee's contract and that severe breaches could lead to disciplinary action.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

12. **Member/Officer Protocol:**

The Director of Corporate Governance presented a report, which sought the Committee's approval to circulate the Members/Officer Protocol to all Members of Council.

RESOLVED: That the Member/Officer Code of Conduct be circulated to all Members seeking comments on whether they found it useful, what it needed to cover, what else

it might usefully cover and whether there were areas of concern where fuller guidance would be helpful.

13. **Ethical Issues and Training:**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Corporate Governance which sought Members approval for any training requirements.

RESOLVED: That (1) the outcome of the mandatory training held on 12 June 2006 be noted;

(2) another mandatory training session be arranged and a record of non-attendees be reported to a future meeting;

(3) specific training be given to the Hearing Panel prior to any meeting;

(4) Sheila Darr and Councillor Joyce Nickolay be nominated to attend the Standards Board Annual Conference in October 2006, and, if unable to attend another Independent Member and Councillor be nominated;

(5) no further training be arranged until further notice;

(6) officers be requested to provide Members with details of any networking events for Standards Committee Members at Brent Council.

14. **Future Work of the Committee:**

The Director of Corporate Governance presented a report which timetabled reports for future meetings.

RESOLVED: That (1) the following items be added to the work programme:-

- i. Members' Rights to Confidential Information;
- ii. Member Development Strategy;
- iii. IDEA Chartermark on Training.

(2) the report be noted.

15. **Dates of Future Meetings of the Committee:**

RESOLVED: That the Standards Committee meeting dates scheduled in the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2006/07 be noted and agreed.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.42 pm).

(Signed) THE RIGHT REVD PETER BROADBENT
Chairman

APPENDIX 1STANDARDS PANELS**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL (4)**
(Non-Proportional)

	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>
	(2)	(2)
<u>I. Members</u>	Jean Lammiman (CH) Paul Osborn	B E Gate O'Dell
<u>II. Reserve Members</u>	1. Mrs Myra Michael 2. Mrs Vina Mithani	1. Keeki Thammaiah 2. David Perry

HEARING PANEL (5)
(Non-Proportional)

	<u>Independent Persons</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>
	(3) 3 Independent Members including 1 as Chair	(1)	(1)
<u>I. Members</u>	Rev Peter Broadbent Sheila Darr John Kirkland Mohammad Rizvi	Janet Cowan	Phillip O'Dell
<u>II. Reserve Members</u>		1. Joyce Nickolay	1. B E Gate

Membership Rules

(1) The membership of The Standards Committee Hearing Panel, to hear local determinations will be five persons (comprising three Independent Persons and one Elected Member from each of the main political parties, within the Standards Committee Membership);

(2) the quorum for the Panel hearing a local determination is 3, including at least two of the Independent Persons;

(3) the Panel hearing a local determination be chaired by one of the Independent Persons;

(4) the Independent Person to fulfill the function in (3) be appointed by the Standards Committee;

(5) Members attending a Panel be required to vote on a local determination and not be permitted to abstain.