



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2007

7.30 PM

COMMITTEE AGENDA

**COMMITTEE ROOM 5
HARROW CIVIC CENTRE**

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 2 Councillors and 1 Independent Person)

Chairman: (To be appointed)

Councillors:

**Mrs Janet Cowan
Mrs Kinnear
Jean Lammiman
Joyce Nickolay**

**B E Gate
Phillip O'Dell**

Independent Persons:

**Rev Peter Broadbent
Ms Sheila Darr
Dr John Kirkland
Mr Mohammad Rizvi**

Reserve Members:

1. Mrs Lurline Champagnie
2. Tom Weiss
3. Jeremy Zeid
4. Mark Versallion

1. Mitzi Green
2. Mr Asad Omar
3. -

**Issued by the Democratic Services Section,
Legal and Governance Services Department**

**Contact: Michelle Fernandes, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1542 E-mail: michelle.fernandes@harrow.gov.uk**

***NOTE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING:
IF YOU WISH TO DISPOSE OF THIS AGENDA, PLEASE LEAVE IT BEHIND AFTER THE MEETING.
IT WILL BE COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING.***

HARROW COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2007

AGENDA - PART I

1. **Appointment of Chairman:**

Further to the re-establishment of this Committee at Annual Council on 10 May 2007, the Committee is asked to appoint a Chairman for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

2. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

To note the attendance at this meeting of any duly appointed Reserve Members.

Reserve Members may attend meetings:-

- (i) to take the place of an ordinary Member for whom they are a reserve;
- (ii) where the ordinary Member will be absent for the whole of the meeting; and
- (iii) the meeting notes at the start of the meeting at the item 'Reserves' that the Reserve Member is or will be attending as a reserve;
- (iv) if a Reserve Member whose intention to attend has been noted arrives after the commencement of the meeting, then that Reserve Member can only act as a Member from the start of the next item of business on the agenda after his/her arrival.

3. **Declarations of Interest:**

To receive declarations of:

- (a) personal or prejudicial interests, and
- (b) gifts or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.00 received within the last 3 years of the date of this meeting,

arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from:

- (i) all Members of the Committee, Sub Committee, Panel or Forum;
- (ii) all other Members present in any part of the room or chamber.

4. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

To consider whether any of the items listed on the agenda should be considered with the press and public excluded on the grounds that it is thought likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure of confidential information in breach of an obligation of confidence or of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

5. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**
Further to the re-establishment of this Committee at Annual Council on 10 May 2007, the Committee is asked to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2007/08.
- Enc. 6. **Minutes:** (Pages 1 - 10)
That the minutes of the Special meeting held on 1 March 2007, the Ordinary meeting held on 26 March 2007 and the Special meeting held on 23 April 2007 be agreed and signed as correct records.
7. **Public Questions:**
To receive questions (if any) from local residents or organisations under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 19 (Part 4B of the Constitution).
8. **Petitions:**
To receive petitions (if any) submitted by members of the public/Councillors under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4B of the Constitution).
9. **Deputations:**
To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 17 (Part 4B of the Constitution).
- Enc. 10. **Establishment of Panels:** (Pages 11 - 16)
Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services.
- Enc. 11. **Review of Complaints:** (Pages 17 - 18)
Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services.
12. **Date of Next Meeting:**
17 December 2007 at 7.30 pm in Committee Room 6.

AGENDA - PART II

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REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2007

Chairman: * The Right Revd Peter Broadbent

Councillors: * B E Gate * Joyce Nickolay
* Mrs Kinnear * Phillip O'Dell
* Jean Lammiman * Jeremy Zeid (3)

Independent Persons: † Ms Sheila Darr * Mr Mohammad Rizvi
* Dr J Kirkland

* Denotes Member present
(3) Denotes category of Reserve Member
† Denotes apologies received

[Note: Councillors Thaya Idaikkadar and Mrs Sasi Suresh also attended this meeting to speak on the item indicated at Minute 43 below].

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

39. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

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

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Mrs Janet Cowan	Councillor Jeremy Zeid

40. **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.

41. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) the order of the agenda be amended to consider agenda item 6, Register of Interest, before item 5, Consultation on the Draft Code of Conduct; and

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

42. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 19 September and 5 December 2006 be deferred until the next ordinary meeting due to be held on 26 March 2007.

43. **Register of Interest:**

The Chairman provided an oral report setting out the background to this item. He explained that the former Director of Corporate Governance had indicated concerns with two Councillors who may not have understood the completion of the Members' Register of Interests form. It had been suggested that they be invited to a meeting of the Standards Committee to obtain assistance from the Committee in the completion and understanding of the Register, and identify any training needs required.

The Committee felt that it was unfair to have singled the two Members out as other Members had also allegedly failed to comply with the Regulations relating to the completion of the Register and they had not been invited to the meeting. The Committee did not want the two Members to feel that they had been invited to the meeting to be questioned or given a warning. In addition, the Committee and the two Members concerned felt that an indication as to why they had been invited should have been made clear before the meeting.

Responding, the Chairman explained that the two Members had been invited to the meeting as they had omitted an item from their Register of Interests form and the purpose of the invitation was to identify any training needs or assistance they might need in completing the form. He also indicated that the matter was further complicated by the fact that if the whole Committee was asked to consider an alleged breach of the code it might prejudice the Standards Committee when acting as a Hearing Panel. He sought suggestions on how such allegations ought to be dealt with.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED: That (1) a six monthly reminder to Members concerning the need to keep their entry in the Register of Interests up to date be sent via the Legal and Governance Services Department;

(2) a training session on the Members' Register of Interests be arranged following approval of the revised Code of Conduct;

(3) the following procedure be followed when a breach of the Code in relation to the Members' Register of Interests is reported:

The relevant officer should notify the Member concerned in the first instance. If the breach has not been rectified within 28 days, it should be reported to the Chairman of the Standards Committee. If the Member continues to be in breach the matter should then be reported to the Standards Committee and also be referred to the Member Development Panel in order to address the Member's training needs.

44. **Consultation on the Draft Code of Conduct:**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services introduced the report which detailed the Government's proposed changes to the Code of Conduct, together with the Authority's response to questions raised by them.

The consultation document had been circulated to all Members and Co-opted Members for their views, which were referred back to the Committee for discussion. The closing date to submit any views was 9 March 2007, following which it was anticipated that a clearer and simpler Code would be introduced by legislation in early April and come into force some time in May 2007.

Further to the submissions already made, Members raised the following points:

- Bullying ought to be clearly defined.
- There was a need to clarify the behaviour outside official duties that would be considered bringing one's office or the Authority into disrepute.
- Councillors were never off duty and could be approached at any time by a member of the public, which made it difficult to distinguish between being on duty or not.
- Clearer guidance was required in relation to Members with a prejudicial interest, making a representation and knowing when they should speak, answer questions, whether they could remain for the debate and when they should leave the room.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That (1) the Director of Legal and Governance Services include the additional comments of the Committee in the formal response to the consultation;

(2) a further Special meeting of this Committee to consider the new Model Code of Conduct be arranged for some time in April 2007 on a date to be agreed.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 8.40 pm).

(Signed) THE RIGHT REVD PETER BROADBENT
Chairman

REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2007

Chairman: * The Right Revd Peter Broadbent

Councillors: * Mrs Janet Cowan * Jean Lammiman
 * B E Gate * Joyce Nickolay
 * Mrs Kinnear * Phillip O'Dell

Independent Persons: * Ms Sheila Darr * Mr Mohammad Rizvi
 * Dr J Kirkland

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS
RECOMMENDATION I - Protocol for Dealing with Complaints

Your Committee received the draft of a proposed Protocol for dealing with complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and/or Local Protocols. Members noted that adoption of the Protocol would demonstrate that arrangements were in place to ensure that the Committee would carry out their responsibilities in a regularised manner. It was noted that the Protocol would be in effect from now until April 2008, when changes were expected following the Local Government Bill.

Members suggested two amendments to the draft, the first making clear Members' right to make representations during an investigation, and secondly that 'consider' should be inserted into the flow chart.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the revised Protocol for Dealing with Complaints, incorporating the comments above, be adopted.

(See also Minute 51).

PART II - MINUTES45. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

46. **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.

47. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following item be admitted to the meeting by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency stated below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
9. Protocol for Dealing with Complaints - The Draft Protocol	There were delays in finalising the draft Protocol at the time the agenda was printed and circulated. Members were requested to consider this item, as a matter of urgency.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

48. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That (1) the minutes of the ordinary meetings held on 19 September and 5 December 2006 be taken as read and signed as correct records;

(2) the minutes of the Special meeting held on 1 March 2007 be deferred until printed in the Council Bound Minute Volume.

49. **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.

50. **Whistleblowing Policy:**

Members considered a report of the Head of Human Resources, which introduced a revised Whistleblowing Policy, following contributions from a previous meeting of the Standards Committee.

Members were informed that the draft policy now included improved guidance on the whistleblowing procedure and detailed how to raise a concern. An officer reminded Members that a flowchart with a list of regulatory bodies was appended to the draft which would assist an employee if they felt they required assistance outside the Authority or if the matter was outside the Authority's jurisdiction.

A Member queried the references of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1988 and suggested that a simplified explanation be provided within the Policy. In addition, the officer was asked to replace the word "verbally" throughout the Policy with the word "orally", and correct errors in the numbering of paragraphs.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the suggested amendments above, the revised Whistleblowing Policy be approved.

51. **Protocol for Dealing with Complaints:**

Further to Recommendation I above, the Chairman informed the Committee that the four Independent Members of Harrow had attended a cross borough event in Brent on the Code of Conduct. The event was hosted by Peter Keith-Lucas who had spoken of good practice in relation to the Code within authorities. The Chairman advised that Harrow appeared to be following the best practice as suggested by Mr Keith-Lucas and wished to congratulate Harrow's officers on the high quality of work and briefings provided to Members.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

52. **Briefing on The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill:**
The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, which updated Members on the progress and timescale for the introduction of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, particularly in relation to the development of standards and governance.

The Director outlined the increased impact that there would be on the Standards Committee once the Standards Board had downsized its responsibilities and taken on a redefined, more strategic role. Allegations of misconduct would be referred to the Standards Committee in the first instance to decide whether to investigate and a quick turnaround in responding would be expected. Members noted and were concerned by the increased workload and the additional meetings that would be required. The need for a workable system was emphasized and an increase in the size of the Standards Committee membership was suggested, in order to cope with the increased workload. Members were opposed to a Joint Standards Committee and Sub-Committee with Brent Council to hear complaints, as it was felt that each borough had its own systems and ways of working.

RESOLVED: That (1) the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill be noted; and

(2) the consideration of any necessary steps in anticipation of the introduction of the Bill be deferred until the autumn meeting of the Standards Committee.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.47 pm).

(Signed) THE RIGHT REVD PETER BROADBENT
Chairman

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REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2007

Chairman: * The Right Revd Peter Broadbent

Councillors: * B E Gate * Joyce Nickolay
 * Mrs Kinnear * Phillip O'Dell
 * Jean Lammiman * Jeremy Zeid (3)

Independent Persons: † Ms Sheila Darr † Mr Mohammad Rizvi
 † Dr J Kirkland

* Denotes Member present
 (3) Denote category of Reserve Member
 † Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS
RECOMMENDATION I - Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

Your Committee received two versions of the Model Code of Conduct, one as issued by the Government and another which incorporated the Authority's amendments.

It was noted that the Code would come into force on 3 May 2007 and that the Authority had until 1 October 2007 to adopt it. The Committee had previously agreed to move towards the Authority's customised version of the Code of Conduct, to which further minor amendments were agreed at the meeting.

In addition, the Standards Board for England had recommended the adoption of the Ten General Principles as a reminder to Members and the public of the underlying principles of the Code.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Annual Council)

That Harrow's revised Model Code of Conduct, together with the Ten General Principles of Conduct set out in Appendix 3 to the officer report, be adopted.

PART II - MINUTES53. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

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

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Mrs Janet Cowan	Councillor Jeremy Zeid

54. **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.

55. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda item 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>
5. Model Code of Conduct – Appendix 2	The Appendix was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated. Members were asked to consider this item as a matter of urgency.

(2) all business be considered with the press and public present.

56. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Special meeting held on 1 March, and of the Ordinary meeting held on 26 March 2007 be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

57. **Model Code of Conduct:**
(See Recommendation I).58. **Publication of the Members' Register of Members' Interests:**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, which set out progress made since December 2006 in relation to the use of the Democratic Services Team's modern.gov software for the administration of the Registration of Members' Interests.

Concerns had been raised regarding the publication of Councillors' personal details on the website and Members had sought comparative information from other boroughs for further guidance. In addition, officers had been requested to write to all Members of Council on the proposal to publish the Register of Interests on the website and seek their views on this initiative. As requested, a survey of London Boroughs, seeking their views on the proposal to publish the Register, had been carried out, the results of which were set out in the report.

It was noted that out of a possible 72 responses from Members/Co-opted members/Independent Members, only twelve had been received, as set out in the appendix to the report. The Committee felt that the number of responses was low and that Members ought to be given another opportunity to respond, as the matter of publishing personal data on the web was a sensitive issue.

Clearer definitions were sought on some of the terminology on the Register of Members' Interest forms, such as the provision of Members' home and employment contact details and/or daytime contact details. It was suggested that contact details of the Group Office could be used as an alternative.

RESOLVED: That (1) officers write again to all Members of Council, Co-opted and Independent Members advising of the proposal to publish Register of Members' Interests on the website and seeking their views on this initiative;

(2) should there be a variation in the tenor of the responses received to that reported, a further report be submitted to the Committee;

(3) should the tenor of the responses remain broadly similar, the proposal be implemented.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 7.10 pm).

(Signed) THE RIGHT REVD PETER BROADBENT
Chairman

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Meeting:	Standards Committee
Date:	11 September 2007
Subject:	Establishment of Panels
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart, Director of Legal & Governance Services
Portfolio Holder:	Leader, Councillor Chris Mote
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference - Standards Committee Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference Hearing Panel and Member Development Panel Appendix 3 – Proposed Memberships of the Member Development Panel and the Hearing Panel

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report sets out the requirement to establish and appointment members to the Member Development Panel and Hearing Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are asked to:

- (1) Establish a Member Development Panel and a Hearing Panel and to appoint members to those Panels for the Municipal Year 2007/08.
- (2) Note the Terms of Reference of the Committee and its Panels;
- (3) Confirm the councillor membership of its Panels;

- (4) Confirm the nomination for chairman of the Member Development Panel;
- (5) Agree the independent membership and reserve to the Hearing Panel;
- (6) Note that one of the Independent Members will be the Chairman of the Hearing Panel.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

- 2.1 Council at its meeting on 10 May 2007 re-established the Standards Committee and approved its Terms of Reference. A copy of the Terms of Reference of the Committee is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference of the two Panels of this Committee, the Member Development Panel and Hearing Panels are also attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.4 The proposed councillor memberships of the Panels of this Committee and the nominee proposed as chairman of the Member Development Panel are set out at Appendix 3.
- 2.5 Members are asked to note that the Hearing Panel is a 5-member panel made up of (3 Independent Members and 1 member from each group). This is in accordance with the membership rules as follows:

Membership Rules

- (1) The membership of The Standards Committee Hearing Panel, to hear local determinations will be 5 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 one of the Independent Persons;
- (3) The Panel hearing a local determination must be chaired by one of the Independent Persons;
- (4) The Independent Person to fulfil 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.

Legal Implications

Section 113(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 inserted into the Local Government Act 2000 (Section 54A) the provision to appoint sub-committees from time to time. With respect to any Hearing Panel this must act in accordance with the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/1483).

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals.

Equalities Impact

None, although the Code of Conduct requires members to promote equality, not to discriminate unlawfully against any person and to treat others with respect.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Name: Barry Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 31 August 2007		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 31 August 2007		

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Elaine McEachron, Assistant Lawyer, Governance Services,
Telephone: 0208 8420 9414

Background Papers: List only non-exempt
None

IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES/ NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES-/ NO
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	N/A

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee will have the following powers and duties:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives to observe the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (e) developing and recommending local protocols to the Council to supplement the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (f) enforcing local protocols and applying sanctions in respect of breaches as appropriate;
- (g) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (h) granting dispensations to Councillors, co-opted members and “church” and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- (i) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer;
- (j) to keep under review and amend, as appropriate, the Protocol on Councillor/Officer Relations;
- (k) to keep under review the Officer Code of Conduct and, after consultation with unions representing staff, make recommendations to Council for amendment or addition;
- (l) to receive reports and keep a general overview of probity matters arising from ombudsman investigations, Monitoring Officer reports, reports of the Chief Financial Officer and Audit Commission;
- (m) to have oversight of the Council’s whistleblowing policy;
- (n) to agree the policy for decisions on payments to those adversely affected by Council maladministration (under section 92 Local Government Act 2000)

APPENDIX 2

HEARING PANEL

The Hearing Panel has the following powers and duties

To hear local determinations

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

The Member Development Panel will have the following powers and duties:

- (a) to have oversight of the annual programme of member development;
- (b) to prepare and assist in the delivery of the induction of new Councillors following the Borough elections or any by-election;
- (c) to have oversight of the resources allocated for member development and make recommendations to Council for the appropriate resources for the member development function;
- (d) to liaise with external agencies providing development opportunities for members and procure their services as appropriate.

STANDARDS PANELS

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL (4)

(Non-Proportional)

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

HEARING PANEL (5)

(Non-Proportional)

	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>
	<u>Persons</u>		
	(3)	(1)	(1)
<u>I.</u>		Janet Cowan	Phil O'Dell
<u>Members</u>			
<u>II.</u>		1. Joyce Nickolay	Brian Gate
<u>Reserve</u>			
<u>Members</u>			

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 one of the Independent Persons;

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

(4) The Independent Person to fulfil 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.



Meeting:	Standards Committee
Date:	11 September 2007
Subject:	Review of Complaints
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart Director of Legal & Governance Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Chris Mote
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report outlines the number of complaints made to the Standards Board for England and to the Monitoring Officer between August 2006 and August 2007.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To note the report.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

1. In September 2006, this committee considered a report on the number of allegations submitted to the Standards Board for England. It was agreed that the Committee would be provided with an annual summary of complaints against councillors.

2. In March 2007 Council resolved to adopt a Protocol for dealing with complaints.
3. This report sets out the number of complaints made to the Standards Board for England and investigations carried out on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.
4. Between August 2006 and August 2007, three allegations were made to the Standards Board about Harrow Councillors. The outcome was that these allegations should not be investigated. Members are asked to also note that no sanctions were recommended against any Harrow councillor during this period.
5. Between March 2007 and August 2007, three allegations were made to the Monitoring Officer. The outcome was that the members concerned were advised about their future conduct.

There are no legal implication or direct financial implications arising from this report.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Name: Barry Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 31 August 2007		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 31 August 2007		

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Elaine McEachron, Assistant Lawyer, Governance Services
Tel: 020 8420 9414

Background Papers: Report to Standards Committee 19 September 2006

IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES/ NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES/ NO
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	N/A