
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