

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Standards Committee
Date:	7 October 2003
Subject:	Standards Committee Event
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Gerald Balabanoff – Borough Solicitor
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	N/A
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	N/A
Enclosures:	N/A

1. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

1.1 Standards Committee Members from the Boroughs of Harrow, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hammersmith and Fulham and Hounslow are invited to attend a social gathering at Brent Town Hall to discuss, share, and hopefully enhance your knowledge relating to the implementation of the new ethical framework, how to hold a hearing, declaring interests/gifts/hospitality, etc. The email attached (Appendix 1) refers.

2. Recommendations (for information)

2.1 That Members of the Standard Committee attend the gathering at Brent Town Hall

REASON: To discuss, share, and hopefully enhance your knowledge

3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

3.1 N/A

4. Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)

4.1 N/A

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 N/A

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 Appendix 1 refers.

7. **Consultation**

7.1 N/A

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 N/A

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 N/A

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 That Members of the Standard Committee attend the gathering at Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9HD

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 Appendix 1 refers.

12. **Author**

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APPENDIX 1

Message from Terry Osborne, Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Brent Town Hall

"Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to all Monitoring Officers in the West London Alliance namely, Harrow, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hammersmith and Fulham and Hounslow. All of us will have received various booklets from the Standards Board regarding how to hold a hearing, declaring interests/gifts/hospitality, etc. This is further to the latest regulations (concerning standards committees) in force as at 30 June 2003. I have now been approached by the Chair of Brent's standards committee (John Mann), an independent, who is very keen to get together with standards committee members and monitoring officers from the boroughs in the alliance. I think this is a particularly good idea as the sharing of experience/problems/queries in a social and informative evening can only enhance the implementation of the new ethical framework within our particular boroughs. I do appreciate that each borough has adopted/in the process of adopting their own practice directions. However, John and I are in agreement that problems common to members (and not entirely made clear by the regulations or guidance!) and practical considerations could be effectively debated.

I am in the process of liaising with the Standards Board regarding the possibility of a speaker to address an evening gathering at a suitable venue in Brent. Whilst the focus is to meet other members, it would be useful to hear from the Standards Board. Would you all let me know whether you believe your committee members would be interested together with potential numbers? I have pencilled in both the 6th and 13th November 2003 as possible dates. It is envisaged that the meeting is likely to last no more than 2 ½ hours with the provision of a light buffet and drinks. I will be telephoning you in a couple of days for feedback. If you have any queries, would you contact either myself or the lawyer co-ordinating the event, Helen Keep at Helen.Keep@brent.gov.uk or 020 8937 1368.

Kind regards,

Terry Osborne
Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
020 8937 1292"

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