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**REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**


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**MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2009**


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Chairman:	* The Right Revd Peter Broadbent	
Councillors:	* Husain Akhtar	* Jean Lammiman
	* Mrs Lurline Champagnie	* Joyce Nickolay
	* B E Gate	* Asad Omar
Independent Persons:	* Ms Sheila Darr	* Dr J Kirkland
	† Mr Mohammad Rizvi	

\* Denotes Member present  
† Denotes apologies received

[Note: Councillor Jeremy Zeid also attended this meeting to speak on the items indicated at Minutes 109 and 111 below].

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**
**RECOMMENDATION I - Monitoring Officer - Annual Report 2008/09**

The Committee received the Monitoring Officer's annual report for the period May 2008 to March 2009. The report set out the number of complaints against Members considered under the local assessment framework, provided an update on the registering of interests and gifts and hospitality, and outlined a proposed work programme for the Committee for 2009/10.

With regard to the complaints received against Members of Council, Members queried the source of the complaints, in terms of whether they had been received from other Members, officers or the public. It was advised that this information could be provided. It was also advised, in response to Members' queries, that the report had only been submitted to this Committee. Members were of the view that the report merited wider consideration and that it should therefore be referred to full Council, having been amended to include further information on the source of complaints.

It was noted that, while the report referred to training on the Code of Conduct, there was a full Member development programme which included training on other statutory duties, as set out in Harrow's "The Modern Councillor" Professional Development Programme for Elected Members and overseen by the Member Development Panel. The work of the Panel, which was a subsidiary body of this Committee, was not reported elsewhere. It was therefore agreed that reference to the Member Development programme also be inserted into the report, prior to its submission to Council.

The Committee considered its draft work programme for 2009/10. It was noted that it was proposed to draw up a number of new protocols, and officers advised that these related to issues that had been the subject of Member queries. Members also recalled that the Committee had previously considered a draft protocol for Councillors writing and/or publishing material on the internet, including blogs; it was agreed to request an update on this in 2009/10. There was some discussion of the duties on Members with regard to the Data Protection Act and it was agreed that this should also be included in the Committee's work programme, as should the Member Development Programme for 2009/10.

The Committee, having agreed the work programme as now amended,

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Council)

That the annual report of the Monitoring Officer for 2008/09, as amended, be noted.