

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET

18 JUNE 2009

Reference from the Standards Committee meeting held on 9 June 2009: Member Development – Future Operating Arrangements

1. At its meeting on 9 June 2009, the Standards Committee received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services which proposed that the Member Development Panel be re-designated a Cabinet Advisory Panel in light of its increasing focus on individual Member Development, which sat within the Portfolio of the Leader of the Council. The report also suggested that one of the Independent Members of the Standards Committee be appointed as a Co-opted Member of the Panel in order to retain a link with the Committee, given its responsibility for training on the Member Code of Conduct and other relevant protocols. The Council's commitment to achieving the Member Development Charter was highlighted.
2. A Member expressed concern that Member development was not well supported by Members. She suggested that this would be better addressed either by bringing it within the remit of the Standards Committee itself, or by increasing the size of the Member Development Panel so that it involved more Members, resulting in a greater exchange of ideas. An increase in the size of the Panel was supported by some Members, but not by others, who felt that it would not improve support for Member development. It was also noted that the remits of the Member Development Charter and the Panel were both wider than the Standards Committee's own remit with regard to Member training. It was therefore logical for the Panel to be established as a Cabinet Advisory Panel in line with the Leader's Portfolio.
3. There was concern that the operating arrangements of the Member Development Panel should not become more restricted as a result of it becoming a Cabinet Advisory Panel, for example in terms of openness of discussion. Members also queried whether the new Panel would be established on a non-proportional basis as it was currently, as they would not wish the Panel to become politicised. It was agreed that the Committee's comments on these matters, and with regard to the size of the Panel, be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.
4. With respect to the proposal to appoint one of the Independent Members of the Standards Committee as a co-optee to the Panel, this was not supported. It was agreed that a better way for the Committee to engage with the Panel would be for it to receive reports from the Panel as and when it considered issues relating to the Committee, or to receive the Panel's minutes on a regular basis.
5. The Committee **RESOLVED**, inter alia, that **Cabinet be requested to establish the Member Development Panel as a Cabinet Advisory Panel, reporting to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Ashton) as part of his portfolio for Strategy, Partnership and Finance; and**

that the Terms of Reference and membership of the Panel be agreed by Cabinet as part of the future operating arrangements, and Cabinet be requested to consider the comments of the Committee in relation to the size, political composition and working arrangements of the Panel.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background Documents:

Report to and draft minutes of the Standards Committee meeting on 9 June 2009.

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