



City of Westminster

Minutes

Meeting:

Standards Committee

Date of meeting:

**6.30pm on Tuesday 27 October 2009, Westminster
City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP**

Attendees:

Councillors:
Michael Brahams, DL
Ruth Bush
Robert Davis
Angela Hooper, DL, CBE
Tim Mitchell
Alastair Moss
Steve Summers

Independent Members:
Lord Richard Best, OBE
The Very Rev John Hall
Elizabeth Peace, CBE

Apologies:

Lord Dennis Stevenson, CBE

Contact:

Mick Steward

Details:

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1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman, with the assent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. POLITICALLY RESTRICTED POSTS: THE ROLE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (see report of the Director of Human Resources)

Resolved:

- (i) That the Standards Committee delegate its functions in relation to political restricted posts to its sub-committees and amends their Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- (ii) That the Standards Committee adopts the procedure for seeking exemptions, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

4. CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

- 4.1 Councillor Ruth Bush stressed the importance of sharing the workload of the Committee. The Chairman confirmed that he would ensure that this did happen when he was consulted on any changes. The Committee were also advised that the Sub-Committees would rotate to ensure experience of each stage of the process was gained.

Resolved:

That the Constitution of each of the Sub-Committees be confirmed, as follows:

Standards Sub-Committee (No 1)

4 Members of the Standards Committee, at least one of whom shall be an Independent Member (Lord Best, The Very Reverend John Hall, Councillor Ruth Bush, Councillor Tim Mitchell).

In appointing replacement Members, the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman shall have regard to the need to ensure Members gain experience of the work of all three Sub-Committees. No member shall be involved in the review of a decision of Standards Sub-Committee (No 1) who was a member of that Sub-Committee.

Standards Sub-Committee (No 2)

4 Members of the Standards Committee, at least one of whom shall be an Independent Member (Mrs E Peace, Councillor Robert Davis, Councillor Michael Brahams, Councillor Angela Hooper).

In appointing replacement Members the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman shall have regard to the need to ensure Members gain experience of the work of all three Sub-Committees. No member shall be involved in the review of a decision of Standards Committee (No 1) who was a member of that Sub-Committee.

Standards Sub-Committee (No 3)

4 Members of the Standards Committee, at least one of whom shall be an Independent Member (Lord Stevenson, Councillor Rupert D'Cruz, Councillor Alastair Moss, Councillor Steve Summers).

In appointing replacement Members the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman shall have regard to the need to ensure Members gain experience of the work of all three Sub-Committees. No member shall be involved in the review of a decision of Standards Sub-Committee (No 1) who was a member of that Sub-Committee.

That the Standards Committee formally delegate to the Head of Legal Services (the Monitoring Officer) the authority to appoint replacement Members as set out in recommendation 2.1 above in consultation with the Chairman of the committee.

5. UPDATE ON THE LOCAL DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINTS AND SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS (see report of the Head of Legal Services)

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee endorse the approach set out in this report and confirm that it would receive an updated report at each meeting.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 7.04pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE