

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE which was open to the press and public, held at LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU on THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Present

Independent members: Sally Hawkins Cathy Sullivan and Leslie Thomas.

Councillors Duwayne Brooks and Stella Jeffrey.

Apologies for absence were received from Gill Butler and David Roper Newman.

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	<u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</u> RESOLVED that Sally Hawkins be appointed as the chair for the remainder of the municipal year.
2	<u>APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR</u> RESOLVED that Gill Butler be appointed as vice chair for the remainder of the municipal year.
3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None was declared.
4	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd February 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair..
5	<u>REVIEW OF THE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2009/2010</u> ; Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that this a standard report that is presented to the Committee on an annual basis. It was further

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explained that the detailed results of the review are at Appendix 2 to the report. The Committee commented that it was obvious that a lot of work done to put this report together and it was put together in a very accessible way and presents a good level of assurance.

RESOLVED that the outcome of the review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance be endorsed.

6 ANNUAL REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWING
POLICY AND REFERRALS

Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer presented the report and explained that this is the fourth occasion that it is being reviewed by the Standards Committee.

Kath Nicholson explained to the Committee the processes on receipt of a whistleblowing referral. There was only one referral under the policy, over the past year, which purported to be from "The Parking Department Staff" and came from a personal email address.

Kath Nicholson explained her investigation into the referral which made allegations of enormous pressure being brought to bear on staff to increase the issue of tickets. After a very extensive investigation which lasted several weeks and interviewing numerous witnesses and reviewing voluminous documentation she arrived at a conclusion which did not substantiate the initial allegations.

In the course of the Monitoring Officer's investigations there were important lessons learnt in relation to the clienting of contracts and improvements in relation to street furniture when the budget was available.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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7 APPOINTMENT TO SUB COMMITTEES OF
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer presented the report and explained that the report provides information about the composition of subcommittees which are required to be established to handle the Committees business under the local assessment and investigations regime .

RESOLVED that the allocation to Standard Committee sub committees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

8 WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

Kath Nicholson Head of Law and Monitoring Officer introduced the report. It was suggested that it may be beneficial if the Committee were to receive some further training with the aid of case studies at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the work programme for the Committee as set out at paragraph 5.5 of the report be agreed with the addition of some further training with the aid of case studies.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th November 2010

The meeting ended at 8:10pm