

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 21 NOVEMBER 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Present

Independent members: David Roper-Newman, Cathy Sullivan and Leslie Thomas.

Councillors Ami Ibitson, Stella Jeffrey, Helen Klier and Jim Mallory

Apologies received from Obajimi Adefiranye, Pauline Morrison, Sam Owalabi-Oluyole and Hannah Le Vay.

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th May 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None was declared.
3	<u>ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT</u> Peter Gadsdon, Head of Strategy and Performance , Customer Services, presented the report which provided an update on all stages of the Council's complaints performance for 2012/13. A summary of the Independent Adjudicator's report and a summary of the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual review was also considered. It was noted that there has been a slight decrease in complaints overall however due to significant Government changes on welfare reform they may start to increase next year. It was noted that less than 2% of all complaints escalate to Stage 3 which are dealt with by the Independent Adjudicator.

Minute
No.

Action

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4 COMPLIANCE WITH MEMBER CODE OF
CONDUCT

Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and monitoring Officer presented the report and explained that the report provides information about the extent of compliance with the Member Code of Conduct.

The Committee's attention was also drawn to the benchmarking data from other London Boroughs in relation to member complaints since 2010.

It was suggested that there should be improved linkage on the Council's web site in relation to the Council's ethical framework as there was some difficulties in accessing the same.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 WORK PROGRAMME

Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer presented the item and invited the Committee to comment.

The Chair identified the need for ethical standards to be an integral part of members induction programme and the need to ensure that all members attend.

There should also be further emphasis on the way members conduct themselves in public and especially on the use of social media.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme shown in paragraph 3.3 of the report be agreed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged

The meeting ended at 8:15pm