

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 WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Councillors : Obajimi Adefiranye, Andre Bourne, Brenda Dacres, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall and Jim Mallory.

Independent members : Fasil Bhatti, Gill Butler, Cathy Sullivan, Leslie Thomas QC and Joy Walton.

Apologies received from Councillors Paul Bell, Simon Hooks, Hilary Moore and Pauline Morrison and Independent Member David Roper-Newman.

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None was declared.
2.	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee meetings held on the 29 th October 2015 and 30 th March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
3.	<u>INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE</u> All members of the Committee and officers present introduced themselves to other members of the Committee. A warm welcome was extended to the two new independent members, Fasil Bhatti and Joy Walton. Kathy Nicholson, Head of Law made a presentation to the committee on "The Role of the Standards Committee In Lewisham." A handout of prepared slides was given to those members present.

Minute
No.

Action

During the course of the presentation members of the Committee posed various questions and made suggestions to ensure that ethical standards in Lewisham remains high and to review current practice in Lewisham as against practice elsewhere in London.

RESOLVED that the presentation by Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer be noted and that a report be brought back to the Committee on current practice in relation to ethical standards arrangements across London.

4. REVIEW OF LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2015 – 16

Paul Aladenika, Principal Policy Officer, introduced the report and explained that this is a standard report presented to the Committee annually.

A brief discussion followed and an enquiry was raised as to whether there should be a review of the level and role of joint authorities and shared services in light of such arrangements becoming more common.

It was also queried whether there was a need for greater codification of these partnerships in the Constitution.

RESOLVED that:

(i) there be a review of the Whistle blowing Policy and Procedures.

the report be otherwise noted

5. WORK PROGRAMME

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

It was suggested that the Council look at the

size of the Committee and review what happens around London. After some discussion it was agreed that a report be brought back as to the ethical arrangements and the composition of the Standards Committee in other London boroughs.

RESOLVED that the work programme shown in paragraph 3.3 be agreed and that report on the ethical arrangements in other London boroughs be brought to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th November 2016

The meeting ended at 8:05pm

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