

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Bill Brown, Jim Mallory, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, Alan Smith, Eva Stamirowski, Sue Hordijkenko, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa.

Also Present Gill Butler, David Roper-Newman. Cathy Sullivan and Joy Walton.

Apologies for absence were received from Fasil Bhatti and Leslie Thomas QC.

1. Declaration of interests

No declarations were made.

2. Standards Committee Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018 and 3 April 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. Introduction and Role of the Committee

All members of the Committee and officers present introduced themselves to the members of the Committee.

The Head of Law made a presentation to the committee on “The Council’s Ethical Framework.”

It was agreed that the presentation would simply focus on the ethical framework and the role of the Standards Committee and the procedures adopted on receipt of a complaint of a breach of the Member Code of Conduct. It was explained that there was a degree of flexibility in the determination of matters by Sub Committees subject to the two rules of natural justice being satisfied.

It was explained that traditionally compliance with standards in Lewisham is good and the Standards Committee is effective in keeping the profile of ethics high within the Council.

RESOLVED that the presentation by the Head of Law be noted.

4. Review of Local Code of Corporate Governance

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

It was explained that the document appended to the report provides the results of the annual review and provides a summary of examples which evidenced compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

It was commented specifically that the various induction activities for new members was impressive.

An enquiry was raised in relation to the safeguarding partnerships and the changes required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Head of Law explained that the local authority has no choice in this matter and confirmed that the proposed changes are legally required. The Head of Law's view was that the changes will not change the position significantly.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. Work Programme

The Head of Law presented the item and invited the Committee to comment.

RESOLVED that the work programme shown in paragraph 3.3 be agreed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21 November 2019

The meeting ended at 7:30 pm