

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.15 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2010

**COMMITTEE ROOM M71 , 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mr Patrick (Barry) O'Connor (Chair)

Mr Ibrahim Ali (Independent Member)

Ms. S. Bagum (Independent Member)

Councillor Zara Davis

Mr Barry Lowe (Independent Member)

Councillor Joshua Peck

Mr Eric Pemberton (Independent Member)

Ms Sue Rossiter (Independent Member)

Mr Matthew William Rowe (Vice-Chair)

Other Councillors Present:

Nil

Officers Present:

David Galpin – (Head of Legal Services (Community), Legal Services, Chief Executive's)

Paul Greeno – (Senior Advocate)

Alan Ingram – (Democratic Services)

MR PATRICK (BARRY) O'CONNOR (CHAIR) – IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Anwar Khan and Mohammed Maium Miah.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Covert Investigation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr D. Galpin, Head of Legal Services – Community, introduced the report detailing the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) by the Council and setting out instances where covert investigations had been authorised. He added that three cases had been authorised out of nine applications, which indicated that the gatekeeping and authorising arrangements in place were working.

Members of the Committee then asked questions relating to aspects of the investigations which were answered by Mr Galpin, including the covert activities involved; human rights connotations; involvement of Registered Social Landlords and the Police and limits on sharing information; inspections by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC); the need to delete collateral information obtained; links with service and Community Plan objectives.

Following further consideration of the issues involved, the Committee –

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That further reports contain details of requests for RIPA investigations that are not authorised and details of any CHIS applications that are refused.
- (3) That the Committee receive an Annual Report with information to allow the detection of trends in covert investigations (similar to the annual Complaints report), all refusals of covert investigations, results of inspection reports submitted by the OSC and details on a Ward basis of RIPA applications.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

No urgent business was submitted.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

Chair, Mr Patrick (Barry) O'Connor
Standards Committee