

Committee Standards Committee	Date 20 July 2010	Classification Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No. 6.1
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive Originating Officer(s): Amanda Thompson		Title Standards Committee - Roles and Functions, Membership and Dates of Meetings Ward(s) affected: N/A		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the roles and functions of the Standards Committee, its membership and dates of meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"

Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection

Council Minutes 26/05/10

Amanda Thompson
Democratic Services
020 7364 4651

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Standards Committee was re-established by Council at its Annual meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2010. This report details the roles and functions of the Committee, its membership and dates of meetings.

4. COMPOSITION

a) Membership

The Standards Committee will be composed of:

- Councillors (who may not include the Leader or more than one other Cabinet Member), numbering two from the majority group on the Council and one from each of the other political groups on the Council; and
- nine suitable persons (an "Independent Member") who are not Councillors or officers of the Council or Members of any other body having a Standards Committee and who are not related to or have a close friendship or relationship with Councilors or Officers of the Council

- b) Independent Members will be appointed by the Council for a 3 year term of office subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting and each will retire on a rolling basis. An independent Member who has completed a 3 year term may apply to serve a further term or terms.

Independent Members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

c) Chairing the Committee

A member of the Executive may not chair the Committee. The chair and the vice chair of the Committee will be Independent Members.

5. ROLE AND FUNCTION

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members and other codes and protocols in Part 5 of the Constitution by Councillors, co-opted Members, church, other faith and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted Members and church, other faith and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising on the training of Councillors, co-opted members and church, other faith and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;

- (f) granting dispensations to Councillors, co-opted Members, church, other faith and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer;
- (h) advising the Council on other Codes and Protocols forming the authority's ethical framework;
- (i) to consider arrangements for the appointment of Independent Members to the Committee;
- (j) to review the Corporate Governance Framework of the Council ensuring the authority operates within a robust framework;
- (k) to consider any report referred to it by the Cabinet or any other Committee where there are implications for ethical standards and report back as appropriate;
- (l) to receive whistleblowing reports and reports on any ethical issues arising from audit investigations;
- (m) to receive quarterly monitoring reports on complaints under the Council's Corporate Complaints procedure;
- (n) granting and supervising any exemptions from political restrictions in relation to employees of the Council, having regard to any general advice given by the Secretary of State;
- (o) to report annually on its work to Council;
- (p) to appoint sub committees, each of which must be chaired by an Independent Member, to discharge any function specified in sections 57A and 57B of the Local Government Act 2000 (initial assessment and review of complaints relating to Member conduct);
- (q) to conduct hearings in respect of Councillor conduct relating to the Member Code of Conduct in accordance with the statutory guidance and regulations from time to time

In relation to its powers to deal with (g), (p) and (q) above the Committee has appointed Sub Committees:

- the Assessment Sub Committee to assess complaints received
- the Review Sub Committee to review the decision of the Assessment Sub Committee upon request from a complainant of any decision to take no further action;
- the Hearings Sub Committee to consider the report of the Monitoring Officer relating to any local investigation or any reference from the Standards Board for England following the investigation of a complaint of breach of the Code of Conduct by a Member of the Council.

6. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 The Annual Meeting of Council held on 26 May 2010 appointed the Councillors shown below to membership of the Committee.

<u>Members</u>		<u>Deputies</u>
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	-	None notified
Councillor Anwar Khan	-	“
Councillor Joshua Peck	-	“
Councillor Zara Davis	-	Councillor Gloria Thienal
Councillor Maium Miah	-	“ “

- 6.2 The following Independent Members of the Committee were re-appointed by the Council on 26 May 2010:

Mr I. Ali (until 20th May 2011)
Mr E. Pemberton (until 20th May 2011)

Mr B Lowe (until May 2012)
Mr M Rowe (until May 2012)
Ms S Bagum (until May 2012)
Mr R Hopkins (until May 2012)

The Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed from the Independent Members of the Committee.

- 6.3 Three further Independent Members of the Committee are being recruited to serve until July 2013 and their appointment is due to be considered at the Council meeting on 14 July. This will be reported verbally at the Standards Committee meeting.
- 6.4 The quorum of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees shall be 3 of the total membership of the committee and must include at least two independent members, one of whom shall be Chair.

7. DATES OF MEETINGS

- 7.1 Council has agreed a schedule of dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings and the following are the scheduled dates for the remaining meetings of the Standards Committee during the current municipal year:-

- 20 July 2010
- 12 October 2010
- 18 January 2011
- 12 April 2011

8. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

The information provided for the Committee to note is in line with the Council's Constitution and the resolutions made by Full Council on 24th March 2010 and 26th May 2010.

9. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

10. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

10.1 Pursuant to section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is required to establish a Standards Committee. Under section 54 of the same Act, the functions of that committee shall be to promote standards of conduct by Members and such other functions as considered appropriate. The current roles and functions are set out in the Council's Constitution.

11. ONE TOWER HAMLETS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no anti poverty or equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

12.1 A robust Standards Committee is essential in ensuring the resilience of the Council's ethical framework.

13. RECOMMENDATION

13.1 That the report be noted.