

8.3 24 Narrow Street, London E14 - Local Government Ombudsman

Mr Mario Leo, Head of Legal Services (Environment) introduced the report concerning the finding by the Local Government Ombudsman of maladministration causing injustice resulting from the grant of planning permission by the Council. He explained the process for consideration of complaints of maladministration and indicated that, in this case, the complaint related to a failure to consult.

The Ombudsman had recommended a remedy of a payment to the complainants of £1,000 for disappointment in their amenity not being properly considered by the Council and £300 for time and trouble in pursuing the complaint, along with an unspecified amount for loss of value of their property. Officers had accepted some of the Ombudsman's findings but considered the figure of £1,000 to be excessive and proposed that a payment of £500 be made for this element of compensation plus the £300 for time and trouble. The offer had been notified to the Ombudsman under delegated authority. Following queries from Members, Mr Leo commented that the compensation was in line with payments made in other such cases and the report did not invite further offers.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report and finding of maladministration against the authority by the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of the investigation attached to the report be noted.
- (2) That the assurance from the Service Head Planning and Building Control that action has already been taken by the department to ensure that the problems which led to the maladministration do not occur again be noted.
- (3) That a report be made to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the compensation offer made by the Council.
- (4) That Councillor Marc Francis be informed of the amount of Officer time involved in dealing with this case.

The meeting terminated at 8.09 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.09 p.m.
Chair, Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Strategic Development Committee