Committee	Date		Classification	Agenda Item No.						
Standards Advisory	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2013		UNRESTRICTED							
Report of		Title	Title							
Service Head, Der Services	nocratic	Members' Attendance, Timesheets and Declaration of Interests: Monitoring Report								
Originating Officer(s):		Wards affected								
Originating Officer(s).		vvalus allecte	u							

#### 1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates the Committee on a range of matters related to Councillors' attendance at formal meetings and training events, completion of timesheets and the register of interests.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Standards Advisory Committee:
  - (i) Note the information set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 in relation to Councillors' submission of timesheets, attendance at formal meetings and training events, and completion of the register of interests during the previous and current municipal years;
  - (ii) Consider whether there is a need to ask the Chair to write to any Councillor(s) in connection with any of the monitoring information; and
  - (iii) Agree to receive further monitoring reports at six monthly intervals.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since April 2004 the former Standards Committee and now the Standards Advisory Committee have received regular monitoring reports on the completion of Members' timesheets and attendance by Members at Council and other formal meetings.
- 3.2 Over that period, the Committees have discussed how to build on this good practice by incorporating additional information in the reports and presenting the information in the most suitable way to enhance transparency and accountability. In April 2009 the Standards Committee agreed a number of changes to the monitoring regime and these are incorporated in this report.

#### 4. MEMBERS' TIMESHEETS

- 4.1 Tower Hamlets Councillors have, since April 2002, completed monthly timesheets detailing the time spent on council duties, split into categories such as surgeries, casework, attendance at meetings/external bodies etc.
- 4.2 Members' timesheets are posted on the 'Meet your Councillor' pages of the Council's website which also contain information on the ward represented, committee/external appointments, surgery arrangements, contact and other details. Councillors are personally responsible for the accuracy and timely submission of their timesheets.
- 4.3 Completion of timesheets is not a statutory requirement and does not affect the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Members. However, the London Councils Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors have emphasised the need for an accountable and transparent allowances scheme. In their 2001 report, the Independent Panel identified the tasks and responsibilities which they believed were the essential remit of a Councillor. In proposing a Basic Allowance to apply to all Councillors, they assumed a contribution of 40 hours per month on top of a "voluntary commitment" of 20 hours for each Member. Tower Hamlets has voluntarily developed the timesheet system to enhance transparency.
- 4.4 The Standards Advisory Committee and its predecessor Standards Committee have placed great importance on the timely and accurate completion of timesheets and the monitoring arrangements have placed Tower Hamlets at the forefront of best practice in this area as very few other local authorities have any such formal monitoring system in place. In accordance with the Committee's previous request, the table at Appendix 1 now includes, in addition to a snapshot of timesheets completed as at the date of the Committee meeting, information on when each timesheet was submitted and a figure at the bottom of each column showing the average number of total hours recorded on each of the timesheets submitted in respect of that month.

#### The current position – completion of timesheets

- 4.5 In relation to the submission of timesheets the current position, as at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and set out in Appendix 1 attached, is that 6 Members (11.7% of the total) have completed their timesheets up to and including September 2013. 26 Councillors (51%) are more than three months in arrears. An updated schedule will be tabled at the meeting, if necessary.
- 4.6 The Committee may wish to follow previous practice and ask the Chair to write to those Members who are significantly in arrears, drawing their attention to the need to maintain an up to date record. At the April meeting, 17 members were 3 or more months in arrears with their timesheets.

#### 5. MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

5.1 As with timesheets, attendance at committee/panel meetings is not a statutory requirement - the law simply says that if a Councillor fails to attend any Council or other qualifying meeting for a period of six months, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the local authority - and it is accepted that many important Council duties take place outside formal meetings. Nevertheless, attendance at meetings to which he/she has been appointed does represent a key part of a Councillor's work and the combination of attendance and timesheet monitoring information in this report provides a useful picture of a Councillor's activity for the purpose of accountability.

#### The current position - attendance at meetings

5.2 The chart at Appendix 2 shows the record of attendance by Councillors at formal constitutional meetings from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Where a Councillor has failed to attend a formal meeting but has submitted apologies in advance, this is noted in the report.

## 6. MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND ATTENDANCE AT MANDATORY TRAINING EVENTS

6.1 The Committee has previously requested that information be included in the report on two matters that are key to Councillor accountability and ethical governance – (i) Members' completion of the register of personal interests, and (ii) attendance at mandatory training events including seminars on the Code of Conduct and specific training for Councillors appointed to the quasi-judicial committees. This information is summarised in Appendix 3 attached and further explanatory information is below:-

#### **Updates to the register of Members' interests**

- 6.2 Members are required to complete a register of their interests within 28 days of becoming a Councillor and subsequently they must notify any change to this within 28 days of becoming aware of the change. Members receive six-monthly reminders to update the register with any changes. The attached schedule lists the date of each Councillor's latest update to their register entry.
- 6.3 As a matter of good practice and for the purpose of clarity, Members are asked to provide a nil return if there are no changes to register at the six-monthly reminder. However failure to do so would not represent a breach of the Code of Conduct.

#### Attendance at training events

6.4 The Committee has also sought assurance regarding Councillors' attendance at relevant mandatory training events such as those on the Code of Conduct and the specific sessions arranged for members of the Development, Licensing and Appeals Committees and the Appointments Sub-Committee. This information is now incorporated into the schedule at Appendix 3, together with the total number of attendances at other (non-mandatory) in-house Member seminars during the year.

#### 7. OBSERVATIONS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### 8. LEGAL SERVICES COMMENTS

- 8.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced new arrangements to govern the Standards of Conduct for local authority members and co-optees. Seven guiding principles of conduct are set out:- selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty and leadership.
- 8.2 The information in this report supports these guiding principles and, in particular, enhances performance and openness in relation to members performance of their council duties.

#### 9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERTIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications for One Tower Hamlets arising from the proposals in this report.

#### 10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report has no immediate implications for Crime and Disorder.

#### 11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no risk management implications.

#### 12. STRATEGIC ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

12.1 There are no SAGE implications arising directly from this report.

Brief description of "background paper"

Reports by the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London

Councillors timesheets and attendance files

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

John Williams 020 7364 4204 Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

## MEMBERS MONTHLY TIMESHEETS – SUMMARY OF RETURNS MADE FROM APRIL 2013 TO SEPTEMBER 2013

Councillor	APRIL 2013	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN 2014	FEB	MAR
Helal Abbas	8.5.13	20.6.13	2.7.13	1.8.13	18.9.13							
Kabir Ahmed	14.8.13	14.8.13	14.8.13	14.8.13								
Khales U. Ahmed	1.5.13	4.6.13	Yes	6.8.13	Yes	Yes						
Ohid Ahmed												
Rajib Ahmed	Yes	Yes										
Rofique Ahmed	8.5.13	7.6.13	5.7.13	3.8.13	5.9.13	3.10.13						
Shahed Ali												
Timothy Archer	10.5.13	4.6.13	Yes		4.10.13							
Abdul Asad												
Craig Aston	4.6.13	18.6.13	4.10.13	4.10.13	4.10.13							
Lutfa Begum												
Mizanur Chaudhury												
Alibor Choudhury	3.6.13	7.6.13										
Zara Davis	7.5.13	3.6.13	22.8.13	13.9.13	26.9.13							
Stephanie Eaton	24.6.13											
David Edgar	Yes	Yes	Yes	6.9.13	6.9.13							
Marc Francis	10.5.13	12.7.13	11.7.13	30.9.13	9.9.13							
Judith Gardiner												
Carlo Gibbs	26.6.13	26.6.13	8.8.13	8.8.13								
Peter Golds	17.6.13	19.6.13	Yes	13.9.13	4.10.13							
Shafiqul Haque	18.6.13	18.6.13	15.8.13	15.8.13	4.9.13	3.10.10						
Carli Harper-Penman	22.5.13	5.6.13										
Sirajul Islam	13.6.13	13.6.13	10.10.13	10.10.13	10.10.13	10.10.13						
Ann Jackson												
Denise Jones		4.9.13	4.9.13	4.9.13	4.9.13							
Emma Jones	2.5.13	4.6.13	23.8.13	16.9.13	4.10.13							
Aminur Khan	Yes	Yes										
Anwar Khan												
Rabina Khan												
Rania Khan												
Shiria Khatun			_									
Fozol Miah												
Harun Miah	26.9.13	26.9.13	26.9.13									

Councillor	APRIL 2013	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN 2013	FEB	MAR
Maium Miah												
Md. Abdul Mukit MBE	Yes		16.7.13									
Ahmed Omer												
Lesley Pavitt	1.5.13	4.6.13	2.7.13	23.7.13		3.10.13						
Joshua Peck	14.5.13	Yes	2.7.13	23.8.13	10.9.13							
John Pierce												
Oliur Rahman	25.4.13	21.5.13										
Zenith Rahman	10.7.13	10.7.13	10.7.13	12.9.13	12.9.13							
Gulam Robbani												
Rachael Saunders	1.8.13	1.8.13	1.8.13	1.8.13								
David Snowdon												
Gloria Thienel	2.5.13	4.6.13	22.8.13	13.9.13	2.9.13	2.10.13						
Bill Turner												
Helal Uddin	10.6.13	Yes	21.8.13	21.8.13	13.9.13							
Kosru Uddin	22.5.13											
Abdal Ullah	21.5.13	1.6.13										
Motin Uz-Zaman	Yes	2.9.13	2.9.13	2.9.13	Yes							
Amy Whitelock	22.6.13	26.6.13	7.8.13	7.8.13								
AVERAGE HOURS RECORDED FOR MONTH	66.5	65.3	64.4	68.3	44.2	79.1						

### MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

**APPENDIX 2** 

(includes end of 12/13 municipal year and 13/14 municipal year)

	Carrail	Cabinet	Davi				Standards	Pensions	al allu 13			General	Ctuata ula	*! !!	A al ! 4
	Council	Cabinet	Dev Cttee	Licensing Cttee	O & S Cttee	Health Scrutiny Panel	Advisory Cttees	Cttee	Human Resources Cttee	**Appeals Cttee	***Appts Sub Cttee	Purposes Cttee	Strategic Dev Cttee	*Licensing Sub-Cttee	Audit Cttee
Total Held	4	6	6	1	6	3	2	2	4	2	3	2	4	17	2
H. Abbas	4		6 (6)								2		4 (4)		
K. Ahmed	4		1								3		, ,		
K. U. Ahmed	4		2(dep)	1										12	
O. Ahmed	4	6	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \												
R. Ahmed	4		1 (4)	0(Ap)								1 (1 Ab)	1 (2Ap) (3)	6	
R. U. Ahmed	4	5 (1Ap)	. ,	( 1 /								` '	\ 17\7		
S. Ali	4	6											1 (1)		
T. Archer	4	-	3 (1Ap) (4)		1 (1Ap)								( )		
A. Asad	4	6	( - /				1 (1)				2				
C. Aston	4		1 (1Ap) (2)				. (1)	2			_	2			1 (1Ap)
L. Begum	4					(2Ab) (2)						(1Ab) (1)			
M. Chaudhury	3 (1Ap)					, , , ,				2		, , ,		1	1 (1Ap)
A. Choudhury	4	6							4		2	2			\ 17
Z. Davis	4						1 (1Ap)						3 (1Ap)	1	
S. Eaton	4				4 (2Ap)		\ 17						1 (1)		2
D. Edgar	4			(1Ap)	\ \ \ /	2 (2)	2		4			1 (1)	` ′		
M. Francis	4		1	(1Ap)								Ž ´	3 (3)	2	
J. Gardiner	3 (1Ap)		4	\ 1-7	1(1)		1 (1)	2					1 (1)		1 (1Ap)
C. Gibbs	4						. ,		4				1(1) 1(dep)		2
P. Golds	4			1	1(dep)		1(dep)					1 (1)	1 (1) 2(dep)	11	
S. Haque	4	5 (1Ap)											\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		(2 Ap)
C. Harper- Penman	2 (2Ap)	, F/		1			(1Ap) (1)						(3Ap) (3)	1	) F/
S. Islam	4				2 (2)		1 (1Ap)		1(dep)		1				
A. Jackson	4			1	2 (2)		· ( '' 'P)	2	1(400)		1			2	
D. Jones	4		(2Ap) (2) 1(dep)	1	_ (_/	1(1)							1(2Ap) (3)	2	
E. Jones	4		\			3 (3)					İ		3 (1Ap)		

<sup>\*</sup> Part of pool of Members to sit on Licensing Sub-Committees
\*\* Part of pool of Members to sit on Appeals Committees
\*\*\* As required

### MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

(includes end of 12/13 municipal year and 13/14 municipal year)

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	Council	Cabinet	Dev Cttee	Licensing Cttee	O & S Cttee	Health Scrutiny Panel	Standards Advisory Cttees	Pensions Cttee	Human Resources Cttee	**Appeals Cttee	***Appts Sub Cttee	General Purposes Cttee	Strategic Dev Cttee	*Licensing Sub-Cttee	Audit Cttee
Total Held	4	6	6	1	6	3	2	2	4	2	3	3	4	17	2
	+														
Aminur Khan	4											2 (Ab)		+	
Anwar Khan	4		5 (1Ap)									2 (Ab)			
Rabina Khan	3 (1Ap)	4 (2Ap)	0 (1710)												
Rania Khan	3 (1Ap)	4 (1Ap) (1Ab)					(1Ab) (1)								
S. Khatun	3 (1Ap)	(1710)	2 (2)						1 (2Ap) (1Ab)			2 (1Ap)			
F. Miah	4				(6 Ab)	<u> </u>	(1Ap) (1Ab)		()					†	
H. Miah	3 (1Ap)				(0.1.0)		(,p) (,to)								
M. Miah	4		(1 (1Ap) (2)	(1Ap)									3 (3)	2	
M. A. Mukit	4		(2)			2 (1Ap)									2
A. Omer	2 (1Ap) (1Ab)					_ ( ,p)						1 (1)			
L. Pavitt	4					1 (1) 1 (dep)				2	2				
J. Peck	4			(1Ap)		` ' '							1(dep)	1	
J. Pierce	4			` ' '					4			3	` ' '		
L. Rahman	4	6													
O. Rahman	2 (2Ap)	(6Ap)						(1Ap) (1Ab)	(1Ap) (1Ab)						
Z. Rahman	4					1 (1Ab) (2)		2							
G. Robbani	4		4 (4)			(3Ab)									
R. Saunders	3 (1Ab)		6		6	3	1 (1)								-
D. Snowdon	2 (2Ap)			(1Ap)	4 (4)									7	
G. Thienel	4								4		2				
B. Turner	4									2	2		1 (1)		
H. Uddin	4				6								1 (1)		
K. Uddin	3 (1Ap)		2 (2Ap (4)												
A. Ullah	3 (1Ap)				3 (1Ab) (4)										
M. Uz-Zaman	4				3 (1Ap) (4)		(1Ap) (1)							1	
A. Whitelock Gibbs	4				4 (2Ap)						2			1	

Part of pool of Members to sit on Licensing Sub-Committees
 Part of pool of Members to sit on Appeals Committees

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> As required

# APPENDIX 3: COMPLETION OF DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORMS AND ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING EVENTS (1st APRIL – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013)

	Declaration of Interest Update		Mandatory Trainin	Non-mandatory Learning & Development Seminars attended 01/04/13 – 30/09/13 Max = 3)		
	received:	Planning & Probity	Appeals	Licensing	Appointments	
H. Abbas	14.8.13	Yes			Yes	1
K. Ahmed	12.8.13	Yes				0
K. U. Ahmed	8.8.13		Yes	Yes		0
O. Ahmed	28.6.12			1.27		0
R. Ahmed	14.8.13	Yes		Yes		1
R. U. Ahmed	8.2.12					0
S. Ali	14.8.13	Yes				0
T. Archer	18.6.12	Yes				0
A. Asad	9.2.12				Yes	0
C. Aston	12.8.13					1
L. Begum	31.1.12		No - TBA			0
M. Chaudhury	20.7.10		Yes			1
A. Choudhury	11.9.13				Yes	0
Z. Davis	30.8.13	Yes	Yes			0
S. Eaton	28.3.12					1
D. Edgar	5.8.11			Yes		0
M. Francis	18.9.13	Yes		Yes		0
J. Gardiner	9.7.12	Yes				0
C. Gibbs	28.8.13	Yes				0
P. Golds	3.10.13	Yes		Yes		0
S. Haque	9.9.13					1
C. Harper-	12.8.13	Yes		Yes		0
Penman						
S. Islam	29.8.12					1
A. Jackson	11.7.12			Yes		0 (+1 as Trustee of Council Pension Fund)
D. Jones	16.7.12	Yes		Yes		1

	Declaration of Interest update		Mandatory Annu	Non-mandatory Learning & Development Seminars attended 01/04/13 – 30/09/13 (Max =3)		
	received:	Planning & Probity	Appeals	Licensing	Appointments	
E. Jones	7.8.13	Yes				0
Aminur Khan	5.12.11					1
Anwar Khan	27.6.11	Yes				0
Rabina Khan	24.1.12					1
Rania Khan	16.1.12					0
S. Khatun	3.7.12					1
F. Miah	25.4.12	Dep - TBA				0
H. Miah	31.8.13	Yes				0
M. Miah	27.8.13	Yes		Yes		1
M. A. Mukit	26.3.12					1
A. Omer	1.9.10					1
Pavitt	28.8.13		Yes		Yes	1
J. Peck	2.9.13	Yes	No - TBA	Yes		2
J. Pierce	29.6.12		Yes			1
O. Rahman	8.2.12		No - TBA			0
Z. Rahman	16.5.12					1 (+1 as Trustee of Council Pension Fund)
G. Robbani	23.4.12	Yes				1
R. Saunders	1.9.13					1
D. Snowdon	17.5.10			Yes		0
G. Thienel	12.8.13		Yes		Yes	1
B. Turner	7.11.11		Yes		Yes	0
H. Uddin	11.7.12	Yes	Yes			1
K. Uddin	12.8.13	Yes	No - TBA			0
A. Ullah	25.3.12					0
M. Uz-Zaman	23.8.13					0
A. Whitelock	28.8.13				Yes	0
Gibbs						
L. Rahman (Mayor)	14.8.13					0

NB: Where a Member is appointed to a regulatory committee they may not serve on that committee until they have undertaken the relevant mandatory training