

## **Standards Committee – Meeting held on Monday, 13th July, 2009.**

### **Present:-**

#### **Co-opted Independent Members:-**

Fred Ashmore, Mike Field, Dr Henna Khan and The Reverend Paul Lipscomb.

#### **Elected Members:-**

Councillors P Choudhry, Hewitt, Mann, Qureshi and Walsh.

#### **Parish Council Members:-**

Nicoline Brandligt and Dalip Rajput.

**Present under Rule 30:-** Councillor David Maclsaac.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Latif Khan and Parish Councillor Laurie Tucker.

### **PART I**

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **2. Election of Chair**

**Resolved** – That The Reverend Paul Lipscomb be appointed Chair of the Committee for the current municipal year.

(The Reverend Paul Lipscomb in the Chair).

#### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17th December, 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. Election of Vice-Chair**

**Resolved** – That Dr Henna Khan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the current municipal year.

#### **5. Appointment of Standards Assessment, Review & Determination Sub-Committees**

**Resolved –**

- (a) That Dr Henna Khan and Mr Fred Ashmore together with the elected Members of the Committee form a pool from which members will be

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drawn by lot to serve on the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee for the current municipal year.

- (b) That The Reverend Paul Lipscomb and Mr Mike Field together with the elected Members of the Committee be appointed to form a pool from which the members will be drawn by lot to serve on the Standards (Review) Sub-Committee for the current municipal year.
- (c) That Councillors Pervez Choudhry, Brian Hewitt and Mewa Mann together with the four Independent Co-opted Members be appointed to form a pool from which Members will be drawn to serve on the Standards (Determination) Sub-Committee for the current municipal year.

### **6. Draft Annual Review 2008/2009**

As required by the Council's Constitution, the Borough Secretary and Solicitor submitted for consideration the draft Annual Review outlining the work undertaken by the Committee during 2008/2009. In addition to summarising the achievements of the Committee over the last municipal year, the Annual Review included an introduction from the Chair; an outline of the role of the Standards Board; the composition of the Committee; its current terms of reference and proposed work programme for the next 12 months.

**Resolved** – That the draft Annual Review of the Standards Committee 2008/2009 be approved and when published a copy be sent to all Members of the Council.

### **7. Registration of Gifts & Hospitality by Members**

The Member Services Manager submitted for information a report detailing the gifts/hospitality registered by Members during the municipal year 2008/2009.

During consideration of this item, a Member expressed concern that only three Members had declared an invitation they had received to an Eid lunch at Baylis House, Stoke Road on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. All Members had been invited to this event and a number of Members had attended. It was pointed out that the lunch had been organised by the Pakistani Welfare Association in conjunction with the Borough Council and that the event had been wholly funded by funds received by the Council from Central Government. In view of the fact that the event was funded by the Council there was no requirement for Members to declare the invitation or their attendance at the lunch.

**Resolved** – That the information report be noted.

### **8. Work Programme 2009/2010**

The Member Services Manager submitted for consideration the Committee's work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.

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During consideration of this item the issue of the Members' attendance records was raised. The Committee was advised that, as in previous years, a report on this matter would be submitted to the Committee in October but this year the format and information included in the report would be different. The data would be drawn from the Council's committee management system, Modern.Gov which enabled Member attendance at each meeting and reasons for non attendance, if known, to be published on the Council's web-site. Summaries of each Member's attendance over selected periods could also be viewed on line. The other major advantage of using Modern.Gov to generate the annual attendance statistics report was that it was far less labour intensive than the previous manual system. Less detail would be provided within the report but the information previously submitted would be available on the Council's web-site.

**Resolved** – That the Work Programme as submitted be noted and approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 p.m. and closed at 6.55 p.m.)