

## **THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

At a meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY, 29TH JUNE, 2022** at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 3, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD (The meeting was moved from Committee Room 1 due to technical problems).

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT**

Councillors Richard Cotton (Chair), Siân Berry, Judy Dixey, Rebecca Filer, Sharon Hardwick and Nancy Jirira

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT**

Councillors Marcus Boyland, Andrew Parkinson and Gio Spinella

### **INDEPENDENT PERSONS PRESENT**

Maggie Redfern and Sue Terry

**The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Standards Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS**

##### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the hybrid meeting procedures set out in the agenda be agreed.

#### **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The Chair noted the non-partisan nature of the Committee and that previously the Vice-Chair had been a member of one of the opposition groups. It was proposed that election of Vice-Chair be deferred to the next meeting to enable further consideration.

##### **RESOLVED –**

THAT election of Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2022-23 be deferred.

#### **3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gio Spinella.

**4. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Broadcasting**

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and could be viewed on the website for twelve months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts were archived and could be made available upon request.

Those who had asked to address the meeting were deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

**6. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no deputations.

**7. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT**

There were no items of urgent business.

**8. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCEDURES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor.

The Chair reiterated that the Committee operated in a non-partisan way and commented that the standards regime at Camden Council was very good, noting that it went beyond recommended best practice. An example of the Council's commitment was that it required that gifts and hospitality with an estimated value of £25 and above be registered, while the Local Government Association's model Code recommended this be set at £50.

The Chair welcomed any suggestions for the forward work plan.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT Standards Committee:

- (i) Noted the Committee's terms of reference;
- (ii) Noted the membership of the Committee; and
- (iii) Made suggestions for the Committee's forward work plan as summarised above.

**10. UPDATE ON STANDARDS MATTERS, JUNE 2022**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor.

In response to a question about the rate of appeals to the Local Government Ombudsman against the decision not to investigate complaints, the Borough Solicitor commented that two of the nine complaints had been appealed but were unsuccessful.

With regard to the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) report on Local Government Ethical Standards, the Borough Solicitor suggested that the recommendations on sanctions were likely to be raised again through future reviews.

It was proposed and agreed that officers write to the CSPL to lobby for continued pressure on the Government to strengthen available sanctions for councillors who breached the Code of Conduct, and to query what the next steps would be.

**ACTION: Borough Solicitor**

**RESOLVED –**

THAT Standards Committee noted and commented on the contents of the report.

**11. STANDARDS INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE RECORD**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor.

The Chair highlighted that category 5 of the interests declared by Members and co-opted Members, (any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Borough of Camden for a month or longer), included residents' parking permits. Other Members queried whether bicycle parking spaces and garages should also be declared under category 5. Officers were asked to review these examples and issue guidance to Members and co-opted Members.

**ACTION: Borough Solicitor**

**RESOLVED –**

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That Standards Committee noted the record of standards guidance.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

**CHAIR**

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**MINUTES END**