

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 5.30 pm on 3 November 2022

### **Present:**

Councillor Nicholas Bennett MA J.P. (Chairman)  
Councillor Melanie Stevens (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor David Cartwright QFSM, Councillor Tony  
McPartlan, Councillor Michael Tickner, Jonathan Farrell,  
Councillor Sam Webber, Councillor Mark Smith and  
Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Mike Botting

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Lee and Kath Nicholson (Independent Person).

### **2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2022/23**

Councillor Tunnicliffe proposed that Councillor Nicholas Bennett be appointed Chairman. The motion was seconded by Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Bennett was duly elected Chairman.

Councillor Tunnicliffe proposed that Councillor Melanie Stevens be appointed Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Councillor Mark Smith and Councillor Stevens was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Nicholas Bennett be appointed Chairman and Councillor Melanie Stevens be appointed Vice-Chairman.**

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no additional declarations of interest.

### **4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

As a matter arising from the previous minutes, the Committee expressed its appreciation for the Member Induction courses that had been run following the local elections in May 2022.

## **5 QUESTIONS**

Two questions for written reply were received and are attached at **Appendix A**.

## **6 MONITORING OFFICER'S GENERAL REPORT Report CSD22093**

The report updated the Committee on a number of standards issues.

### Independent Persons

It was noted that efforts would be made to recruit an additional Independent Person. The Committee also requested that where necessary additional training be provided to the Independent Persons.

### Election and Induction of new Councillors

The Committee acknowledged the importance of ensuring that some form of induction was provided for Members who were elected at by-elections.

### Mandatory Planning and Licensing Training

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that all Members of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee had received training for planning and licensing. It was noted that Members who had missed the group training had been provided with one-to-one sessions.

### Appeals Process for Members Subject to Complaints

The Committee asked the Monitoring Officer to draw up a proposed appeals process for consideration at the next meeting.

### Work Programme/Matters Outstanding

The Committee requested that the Member/Officer Protocol be circulated for information.

### Complaints

The Complaints Schedule was noted.

The Meeting ended at 5.44 pm

Chairman

### STANDARDS COMMITTEE

13 September 2022

#### Questions for Written Reply

#### **(1) From Andrew Stotesbury to the Chairman of the Standards Committee**

*On the 26th July Bromley Council posted a Tweet 'No to Mayor of London's ULEZ expansion proposals'. This included a link : ow.lysb9i50K4jOX . This is still live but it is noted that links on the Council site have been disabled for this article.*

Has the Committee investigated this highly biased political Tweet and Article quoting of the Leader of Bromley Council, Councillor Colin Smith?

**Reply:**

No. The article quoting the Leader and Tweet were announcing the Council's position, which is to oppose the proposal to expand the ULEZ zone to Bromley. It is difficult to do this without mentioning the Mayor of London but his name and party were not mentioned.

#### **(2) From Andrew Stotesbury to the Chairman of the Standards Committee**

As with others (see screen shots attached), if the Committee has found that this has contravened the Councillor Code of Standards (see extracts below) what course of action will be taken to ensure that this is not allowed to re-occur? Should the Councillor in question be required to resign?

*Extracts from the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, 2020  
7.0 Use of Local Authority resources and facilities: Clause 7.1 and 7.2  
Also Appendix A, Clause: Objectivity.*

**Reply:**

The Code of Conduct has not been contravened. Current law has no provision for requiring a Councillor to resign.

This page is left intentionally blank