



Standards Committee

MINUTES of the CLOSED section of the Standards Committee held on Monday November 23 2009 at 7.00pm at Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Mark Roelofsen (Chair)
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle
Councillor James Barber
Councillor Paul Bates
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Robert Smeath

OFFICER SUPPORT: Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance
Norman Coombe, Principal Lawyer, Governance Team
Ian Mark, Senior Lawyer, Governance Team
Melissa Bolton, Senior Lawyer
Andrew Weir, Constitutional Officer

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 7c of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

6. CONSIDERATION HEARING FOR COMPLAINT REFERENCE LF005-09

Norman Coombe, principal lawyer, governance team, reminded members of committee that they may only consider relevant evidence laid before them.

The standards committee, acting as a consideration hearing was advised of the background to the complaint and that the initial assessment sub-committee had resolved to send the complaint for investigation.

The standards committee heard that Melissa Bolton, senior lawyer and the investigating officer had found no evidence of a breach of the code of conduct.

The standards committee made the following finding:

- That it accepted the findings that there had been no failure to comply with the authority's code of conduct.

A record of the decision was signed and dated by the chair.

RESOLVED: That the council's standards committee, having had regard to the complaint by Mr Mick Barnard concerning Councillor Aubyn Graham and having considered the report of the investigating officer, in accordance with the council's local filter decided the following in respect of the complaint:

- That there had been no failure to comply with the authority's code of conduct.

Reason for decision

The allegation was made on the basis of the complainant's belief that Councillor Graham had declared at a previous community council meeting that his grandchildren attended the One O'clock Club. However, Councillor Graham had confirmed to the investigating officer that the previous declaration was that his grandchildren 'may' attend the One O'clock Club.

By the time of the meeting of 22 July 2009 Councillor Graham had established that his grandchildren did not attend and so on this point did not have a personal interest in the decision.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: