

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2013 at 7:00pm in Room F9,
Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon

MINUTES - PART A

Present: Councillor David Osland (Chairman);
Councillor Terry Lenton (Vice Chairman);

Non-voting Independent persons: Mr Ashok Kumar and
Mrs Anne Smith

Absent: Councillors: Timothy Godfrey and Pat Ryan, Donald Speakman and
Mr Andy Smith (Non-voting Independent Person)

Apologies: Councillors Timothy Godfrey, Pat Ryan, Donald Speakman and
Mr Andy Smith (Non-voting Independent Person)

A31/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2013

RESOLVED: that the Part A minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday
24 September 2013 be signed as a correct record with the following
amendment:

Page two, paragraph one, first line to be amended to read "To-date
only one Member of the HWBB had failed to comply with the request
to declare and register their interests.

A32/13 Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures of a pecuniary interest at this meeting.

A33/13 Urgent Business (if any)

There was no urgent business.

A34/13 Exempt Items

RESOLVED that the allocation of business between Part A and Part
B of the agenda as printed were confirmed.

A35/13 **DCLG non-statutory guide: Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests – A guide for Councillor (September 2013)**
(Agenda item 6)

The Monitoring Officer introduced the item drawing Members attention to paragraphs 3.4, 3.6 and 3.7 of the report, confirming that any membership to a trade union organisation would not be required to form part of a member's disclosure. Therefore this change in the guidance would not require a change to the existing local Members Code of Conduct.

The Committee were recommended not to make any changes to the existing council's Members Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: to refrain from making any changes to the existing Members' Code of Conduct as deemed as unnecessary.

A36/13 **Review of the Whistle Blowing Policy and Procedure**
(Agenda item 7)

Officers reported to the Committee the content of the recent amendments to the whistle blowing legislation as detailed in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 (ERRA).

The council's whistle blowing confidential reporting service was due for renewal; the provider of the service has now changed to Public Concern at Work, a third sector provider with a good reputation within the industry.

RESOLVED: to update the whistle blowing policy as circulated in annex a to the previously distributed report

A37/13 **Code of Conduct & Register of Members Interests**
(agenda item 8)

Officers introduced the report to the Committee and directed them to the addition of the work "inappropriate" contained within section 3.8 of the report. Members were in agreement that "inappropriate should be inserted within section 3.8 of the Code.

Members discussed the insertion of the words "honesty or integrity" when relating to truthfulness within Appendix A of the report.

Officers agreed to incorporate the amendment to the Code in a larger report on constitutional changes reporting to a future Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 To note and considered the contents of the report;
- 1.2 To recommend to Council that the revisions to the Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix D of the previously distributed report and the Register of Interests form seen at Appendix F be approved for use of Members following the local elections in 2014 and;
- 1.3 To approve the approach to removal of current Members' registers of interest from the Council's website and confidential disposal thereof, following the local elections in 2014, with the exclusion of non-Councillor Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board who's Registers of Interest will remain on the Council's website for the duration of the term of their appointment.

A38/13 CAMERA RESOLUTION (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Terry Lenton proposed and Non-voting Independent Member Mrs Anne Smith seconded the motion and the Committee **RESOLVED** that the Press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, that there will be disclosure of confidential or exempt information falling within paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

A39/13 Minutes of the Last meeting

RESOLVED that the Part B minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2013 be signed as a correct record.

**A40/13 Members Applications for Dispensation
(Part A summary)**

There were no Members applications for dispensation received or presented at this meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.