

ASSESSMENT SUB (STANDARDS) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10 January 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Assessment Sub (Standards) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Neil Asten (Independent Person)
Alderman David Graves
Ann Holmes

Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Dan Large (Co-opted Member)

Officers:

Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Edward Wood	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Martin Newton	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Town Clerk having asked for nominations for a Chairman for the meeting, it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed that Ann Holmes be elected as Chairman.

RESOLVED - That Ann Holmes be elected as Chairman of the Assessment Sub (Standards) Committee for the meeting.

2. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT SUB (STANDARDS) COMMITTEE

The Sub Committee noted the circulated reports setting out the complaints process, the code of conduct and guidance on it.

RECEIVED.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other urgent business.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

5. COMPLAINT: REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND CITY SOLICITOR

The Sub Committee considered a report and associated papers of the Comptroller and City Solicitor presenting, for assessment by the Sub Committee, a complaint made against a Member of the Court of Common Council.

The Comptroller and City Solicitor provided a brief introduction to his report and reminded Members of the need to ascertain whether they were satisfied that if the complaint was proven it would constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct, along with the current Corporation Assessment Criteria. The Sub Committee noted the requirement to only consider the submitted complaint in relation to the allegations of the breach of the Code of Conduct and not in the context of any related allegations that were not within its jurisdiction.

The Sub Committee then proceeded to discuss the contents of the report and duly considered all relevant matters including hearing the views of the Independent Person that was present. The Sub Committee were of the unanimous view that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred in relation to the matters raised by the complainant in his complaint form and that therefore no further action should be taken in relation to the complaint itself.

Members did however express some concern during discussions that the Remembrancer's Department did not have a record of personal guests attending the Silent Ceremony (using an "admit bearer" type ticket) and resolved to invite the Members' Privileges Sub Committee to review the policy and procedure for issuing tickets for the Silent Ceremony and the security implications.

RESOLVED:- That the Assessment Sub (Standards) Committee agree that:-

- (a) no further action should be taken in relation to the complaint itself; and
- (b) in view of concern expressed that the Remembrancer's Department did not have a record of personal guests attending the Silent Ceremony (using an "admit bearer" type ticket), the Members' Privileges Sub Committee be invited to review the policy and procedure for issuing tickets for the Silent Ceremony and the security implications.

The meeting closed at 2.53 pm

Chairman

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