

ASSESSMENT SUB (STANDARDS) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20 September 2017

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

Present

Members:

Judith Barnes (Co-opted Member)
Deputy Kevin Everett
Alderman David Graves

Ann Holmes
Chris Taylor (Independent Person)

Officers:

Lorraine Brook - Town Clerk's Department
Michael Cogher - Comptroller and City Solicitor
Edward Wood - Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Assessment Sub-Committee elected Alderman David Graves as its Chairman.

RESOLVED:- That Alderman David Graves be elected as Chairman of the Assessment Sub-Committee.

2. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

A number of procedural questions were raised in respect of the complaints process and responded to by the Comptroller and City Solicitor.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED URGENT

There was none.

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 TOWN CLERK AND THE COMPTROLLER AND CITY SOLICITOR

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and 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. He further reminded the Sub-Committee of the need to have regard for the statutory obligations in respect of declaring interests, the requirements of the Localism Act and those rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular a member's article 10 rights to freedom of expression.

Having considered the complaint, the points sets out in the Comptroller's report and the comments made during discussion, the Assessment Sub-Committee concluded that if the complaint was to be proven, it would not constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct and therefore that no action should be taken in respect of the complaint. The Sub-Committee noted that the complainant and the Member would be notified of the decision in due course.

RESOLVED:- That, following consideration of the joint report of the Town Clerk and the Comptroller and City Solicitor, the Assessment Sub-Committee agree that no further action should be taken in respect of the complaint.

The meeting closed at 3.12 pm

Chairman

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