

# MINUTES

Meeting: **Standards Committee**  
Date: **Tuesday 14 September 2010**  
Time: **3.30pm**  
Place: **Committee Room 5, City Hall, The  
Queens Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/committees/standards-committee>

## **Present**

Claer Lloyd-Jones (Independent Member) (Chair)  
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chair)  
Pradeep Agrawal (Independent Member)  
Victoria Borwick AM  
Lucy Dennett (Independent Member)  
Sir David Durie (Independent Member)  
Diane Mark (Independent Member)  
Caroline Pidgeon AM  
Murad Qureshi AM

## **1. Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Richard Barnes AM, Statutory Deputy Mayor, Len Duvall AM, and Sam Younger, Independent Member.

## **2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

2.1 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the relevant Members' declarations of memberships of Functional Bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in the table at Item 2 on the agenda, be noted as personal interests; and**
- (b) That gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out on the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

### **3. Minutes (Item 3)**

#### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 15 June 2010 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

### **4. Summary List of Actions (Item 4)**

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

#### **4.2 Resolved:**

**That the actions arising from previous meetings of the Committee be noted.**

### **5. Independent Element (Item 5)**

5.1 The Chair invited Independent Members to update the Committee on their involvement in mayoral appointments.

5.2 Pradeep Agrawal (IM) informed the Committee that he had acted as an independent element in respect of the appointment process of two Board Members of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. The outcome of the process had been that two existing Board Members were reappointed by the Mayor to those roles. Pradeep Agrawal confirmed that, in his opinion, it was reasonable to appoint the chosen candidates.

### **6. Developments in the Standards Regime (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer.

6.2 It was noted that further details regarding forthcoming changes to the standards regime were still awaited from the Government.

6.3 The Chair suggested that a representative of the Department for Communities and Local Government be invited to the Committee's next meeting to providing a briefing on the implications of the forthcoming changes.

#### **6.4 Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

## **7. Review of the Protocol on Mayoral Appointments (Item 7)**

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer.
- 7.2 It was noted that, whilst the current Protocol on Mayoral Appointments referred to the person acting as independent element having a specialism related to the position to be filled, in practice, as the role of the independent element was to confirm that, in their view, the Mayor could reasonably make the appointment proposed and that there were no defects in the process, a specialism in a particular professional field was not usually required as long as the person acting as the independent element met the other criteria required.
- 7.3 It was noted that the responses provided to the consultation on the role of the independent element in the appointments process expressed a range of views. It was proposed and agreed that the responses be forwarded to the Mayor for his consideration.
- 7.4 The Chair noted that acting as an independent element in an appointments process could be extremely time consuming and placed on record her thanks to Independent Members for their work.
- 7.5 **Resolved:**

**That the responses provided in response to the review of the Protocol on Mayoral Appointments in relation to the role of independent element in the appointments process be noted and be forwarded to the Mayor for consideration.**

## **8. Review of the Operation of the GLA Group Framework Agreement (Item 8)**

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer.
- 8.2 It was noted that the Greater London Authority (GLA) Group appeared to be making good progress in implementing the Framework Agreement. However, some concern was expressed that there was further work to be done in relation to meeting the requirement set out in the Agreement in relation to openness and transparency of decision-making and decision-reporting, particularly with regard to Transport for London (TfL) and the London Development Agency (LDA).
- 8.3 The commitment of those bodies to openness and transparency - as set out in the responses on the agenda - was welcomed and it was noted that they were not subject to the same statutory access to information rules as the GLA, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority or the Metropolitan Police Authority. However, given that the Agreement committed the GLA Group to 'going beyond the basic statutory requirements where possible' it was suggested that further steps could be taken in this regard. It was agreed that TfL and LDA be asked to provide details of further action they would be taking to ensure that they met this provision of the Agreement.
- 8.3 It was proposed that the Committee conduct a fundamental review of the Agreement's contents in March 2011, to ensure that it remained fit for purpose. It was suggested that at

that time it might be useful to examine TfL's complaints procedures, and in particular the procedures for service related complaints.

8.4 **Resolved:**

**(a) That the report be noted;**

**(b) That Transport for London and the London Development Agency be requested to provide further detail regarding what further action they are taking to meet the requirements set out in the Framework Agreement in relation to the openness and transparency of decision-making and decision-reporting; and**

**(c) That the Committee reviews the contents of the Framework Agreement at its meeting on 22 March 2011.**

**9. Monitoring of Expenses – Mayor, Assembly Members and Senior Staff (Item 9)**

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Resources

9.2 It was requested that further detail be provided to the Committee, following the meeting, to explain the difference in the cost between the Director of 2012's flight to South Africa, and the flights of the Mayor and the Director of External Affairs.

9.3 **Resolved:**

**That, subject to the request for further information set out above, the expenses incurred by the Mayor, London Assembly Members and Senior Staff in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 July 2010 be noted.**

**10. GLA Expenses and Benefits Framework (Item 10)**

10.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Resources.

10.2 **Resolved:**

**That the changes proposed to the Expenses and Benefits Framework set out in the report be noted.**

## **11. Update on the Local Assessment of Complaints about GLA Members**

11.1 The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer.

11.2 **Resolved:**

**(a) That the report be noted;**

**(b) That the minutes of the Assessment Sub-Committee meeting of 22 July 2010 be noted and approved by the relevant Members of the Assessment Sub-Committee and that the minutes and Decision Notice of that meeting be noted by the Standards Committee (attached at Appendix 1 to the report);**

**(c) That the minutes of the Review Sub-Committee meeting of 15 June 2010 be noted and approved by the relevant Members of the Review Sub-Committee and that the minutes and Decision Notice of that meeting be noted by the Standards Committee (attached at Appendix 2 to the report);**

## **12. Update on Work Programme (Item 12)**

12.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

12.2 **Resolved:**

**That the progress on the work programme for 2010/11 be noted.**

## **13. Date of Next Meeting (Item 13)**

13.1 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 2 December 2010 at 10am in Committee Room 5.

## **14. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 14)**

14.1 There was no urgent business.

## **15. Close of Meeting**

15.1 The meeting ended at 4.30 pm

Greater London Authority  
Standards Committee  
14 September 2010

---

**Chair**

---

**Date**

**Contact Officer:** Rebecca Arnold, Committee Services Manager  
Email: [rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 020 7983 4421