

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
7 DECEMBER 2006**

Present: Independent members: -
Mr V Kempner (in the Chair)
Mrs S Fellows
Councillors Bird, Daniel, Smith and Tucker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lambrechts.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2006 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting

8 ETHICAL GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer reported that the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA), the Audit Commission and the Standards Board for England, had joined together to devise an Ethical Governance Toolkit. The purpose of the Toolkit was to assist authorities to assess and understand how well they were achieving under the ethical framework, what more needed to be done to improve their position and how to make this improvement sustainable. The report contained details of the toolkit and how it worked. Members' views were sought regarding use of the "light touch" exercise.

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer reported at the meeting that the likely financial cost of the Light Touch Health Check would be up to £5,000.

RESOLVED that consideration of participation in the Light Touch Health Check exercise be considered when the review of complaints is reported in six months time and in the meantime opinions be sought on the toolkit from Councils that had undertaken the process.

9 OFF DUTY AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer submitted a report to advise members of the High Court decision on a standards case involving Mayor Ken Livingstone. The report detailed the High Court decision and its significance regarding the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.)