

**Council Meeting**  
**3 November 2009**

REPORT OF THE ACTING MONITORING OFFICER  
AGENDA ITEM 5.4

**5.4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE**

On 10 September 2009, Standards Sub-Committee (B) conduct a formal hearing into a complaint of a breach of the Council's Members Code of Conduct. When issuing their decision they made the following recommendation to the Council.

*"The Sub-Committee's advice to the Council and to Members of the Council is that the London Borough of Barnet Members' Code of Conduct rightly sets high standards of behaviour on the part of Councillors when dealing with others. That requirement extends to the sending of e-mails and other communications. Particular care needs to be taken with e-mails because of the speed with which they can be prepared, sent and distributed widely. If a Member is intending to send an e-mail which may contain material that could be construed as personally offensive and/or containing intemperate language, we would counsel the Member against sending that e-mail. Should the Member still be intent on sending the e-mail, we would advise that s/he first consult a senior colleague, or, the Monitoring Officer, or, other appropriate professional officers and allow a period of time, of probably not less than 24 hours, to fully consider, amongst other matters, the consequences of sending that e-mail. This advice applies generally, but particularly in circumstances where the Member believes that they are being subjected to what they consider to be unreasonable and personally directed comment of an abusive nature, whether conducted over a period of time, or, as an isolated incident."*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Council is asked to:**

- 1. note and accept the recommendation of Standards Sub-Committee (B); and**
- 2. instruct the Democratic Services Manager to publish the recommendation as an advisory note with the Members Code of Conduct in the Council's Constitution.**

**Jeff Lustig**  
**Monitoring Officer**