

Decisions of the Group Leaders Panel

11 March 2014

Members Present:-

Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman)

Councillor Jack Cohen
Councillor Barry Rawlings

Councillor Anthony Finn

Also in attendance:

Tanya Ossack (Independent Person)
Councillor Dean Cohen (Subject Member)

1 ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (IF ANY)

The Clerk opened the meeting and reported that apologies for absence had been received from:

- Councillor John Marshall;
- Councillor Richard Cornelius who had been substituted for Councillor Daniel Thomas; and
- Councillor Alison Moore who had been substituted for by Councillor Barry Rawlings.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor Daniel Thomas be appointed Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (IF ANY)

There were none.

4. DECISION ON WHETHER TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Papers for this meeting had not been made available in accordance with Section 100B (1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 as the matters yet to be discussed involved the likely disclosure of exempt information. It was for the Panel to decide whether the public and press should be excluded for consideration of the item.

RESOLVED – That Case 001/14 be heard in public session as the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

5. CASE 001/14

The Panel considered the report as presented by the Monitoring Officer which set out details of the complaint.

The complainant cited breaches of Section 1 (6) of the Members Code of Conduct although the Panel was not bound to consider these sections alone.

Councillor Jack Cohen requested to ask Councillor Dean Cohen (subject Member) a question based on the facts provided. Councillor Dean Cohen informed the Panel that he had sought advice from the Managing Director of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) in relation to the answer he provided during Questions to the Leader and Cabinet at the Council meeting on 21 January 2014. The advice received was that all aspects of NLWA meetings were private. He added that this advice had also informed the response to the supplementary question asked by Councillor Moore at the Council meeting.

Councillor Dean Cohen informed the Panel that the question put by Councillor Moore related to how he had voted at the NLWA meeting, not whether he was present or not.

The complainant was not in attendance.

Councillor Dean Cohen left the meeting while the Panel considered the evidence.

Following the Panel's deliberations, Councillor Dean Cohen was re-admitted to the meeting.

RESOLVED – That there was no breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

The meeting finished at 5.28pm (having commenced at 5.00pm)

The meeting finished at 5.28 pm