**CSPL (17) 54**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIFTH MEETING**

**THURSDAY 18 MAY 2017 AT 10:00**

**ROOM GC05.1, 1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD,** **LONDON, SW1A 2HQ**

**MINUTES**

Present: Sheila Drew Smith OBE, Acting Chair

Dr Jane Martin CBE

Jane Ramsey

Monisha Shah

Lord Stunell OBE

Richard Thomas CBE

Secretariat: Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Dee Goddard, Senior Policy Advisor

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer

Apologies: Lord Paul Bew (Chair)

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Sheila Drew Smith was acting Chair in Lord Bew’s unavoidable absence.

Richard Thomas’s term of appointment formally ended on 16 May 2017, but was in attendance for this meeting with the full agreement of the Committee as Richard had not been able to attend the April Committee meeting.

**1. REGISTERS**

Monisha Shah reported one change to the register of interests which was noted. The register would be updated and published on the website.

It was also noted that the Secretariat was in the process of ensuring that the website was up-to-date.

**2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed.

**Matters arising:**

**Secretariat Staffing**

The Committee noted a successful recruitment campaign to fill the two vacancies in the Secretariat. Two new members of staff would start in June. It was also noted that an intern from the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, would join the Committee on 26 June for the summer.

**Enquiries about election campaigning**

The Committee noted the Electoral Commission’s proposed text to send to public enquiries about election campaigning. Suggested amendments by the Committee had been included in the final text.

It was noted that the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority had been invited to attend a Committee meeting.

It was agreed that the matter of substantiation of facts and the use of social media should be an area in which the Committee maintained a watching brief. This was an issue to which the Committee would wish to return in the future.

**3. STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Committee approved the latest version of the strategic plan subject to some final amendments which were noted. A composite document comprising the strategic plan, annual report and business plan would be presented to the June Committee meeting.

**4. STRIKING THE BALANCE: FOLLOW UP SURVEY**

The Committee noted the update on the follow up survey to the *Striking the Balance* report. A timetable for publication of a follow up article/blog was agreed, as was the suggestion that the follow-up survey should be repeated in two years.

**5. INDUCTION FOR NEW MPs**

Subject to noted suggestions, the Committee approved the draft presentation to be made to new MPs as part of the House authorities’ induction programme following the general election.

It was agreed to write to Party Leaders immediately after the general election highlighting the importance of induction for new MPs, and the importance of standards briefings for all MPs.

**6. MPs’ OUTSIDE INTERESTS**

The Committee noted the latest submissions on the review of MPs’ outside interests. The consultation would be re-opened following the general election.

**7. ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS: FOLLOW UP**

The Committee noted the update on the follow up work to ethical standards for public service providers.In particular, two very useful meetings had been held with Lord Kerslake and Barnet Council. It was noted some further meetings were to be arranged.

**8. STANDARDS CHECK**

The Committee noted the Standards Check.

**9. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD GRID**

The Committee noted the forward agenda and forward look of key events.

**10. AOB**

The Committee noted the Communications Update.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 15 June 2017**

**Please note the location of this meeting is to be confirmed.**

**CSPL Secretariat**

**May 2017**