

TO: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**
5th October 2018

FROM: **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**
14 September 2018

DISPENSATIONS

Members experienced a rather edifying example of a Member attempting to comply with the Standards Committee's suggestion that residents, and electors, can be adequately represented by communicating their views through another Member. Members agreed that this proved to be something of a farce, when responses to comments led to further questions conveyed via that Member who eventually came to refer to himself as a 'ventriloquist dummy'.

Given that Community and Children's Services addresses many matters of substantial interest to residents in the City, it was the Committee's view that precluding those Members who represent residents from speaking on these issues leads inevitably to an inability to fully consider residents' interest.

Further, the Committee did not believe that hearing from Members who live in the City would cause any harm which the Standards laws and rules are intended to avoid. Members believe the current position causes harm to residents, particularly in the context of the City where many Members are not resident in the City and represent wards predominated by non-residents. Members also expressed concern that the breadth of the denial of dispensations contrasted unfavourably with the way in which apparently similar concerns related to Temple's commercial residents were dismissed. Therefore the Committee resolved to request, THAT -

the Standards Committee craft a set of dispensations that ensures that residents' interests can be fully represented by their elected representatives. To this end, Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee urge the Standards Committee to research the dispensations policies of nearby London Boroughs that seek to address this issue.