

## Report – Establishment Committee

### Amendment to Protocol on Member/Officer Relations

*To be presented on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of  
the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

#### SUMMARY

At its meeting of 25 January 2019, your Standards Committee recommended amending the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations to clarify dispute procedures available to an Officer who might be dissatisfied with the conduct or behaviour of a Member. The revised wording also acknowledges that the Aldermanic Chairmen perform a similar role to the Chief Commoner in relation to the welfare and conduct of Aldermen.

Your Establishment Committee subsequently considered these amendments at its meeting of 26 February 2019 and agreed to the proposed changes for subsequent approval by Members of the Court of Common Council.

The proposed revisions by your Standards Committee and endorsed by your Establishment Committee provide further clarity to the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations

The amendments to the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations, subject to your approval, are as follows:

#### Introduction

- 3) Responsibility for upholding the Protocol rests with the Chief Commoner *and the Aldermanic Chairmen*
  
- 12) Procedure for Officers:-
- 3(a) If an Officer is dissatisfied with the conduct or behaviour of a Member, *they are encouraged to raise the matter should be raised with the appropriate Chief Officer or the Town Clerk with a view to seeking to resolve their concerns informally if possible. This may result in the matter being referred to the Chief Commoner or one of the Aldermanic Chairmen where appropriate.*
  
- (b) *An Officer also has the same right as any other person under the Localism Act 2011 to make a complaint to the Standards Committee where they consider that there has been a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.*

The amendments to the Protocol are set out in italics above and are shown in the full Protocol attached at Appendix 1 for Member's information.

The Member/Officer Protocol was last considered and with amendments approved by the Court of Common Council in December 2016.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is **recommended** that the Court approves the amendments to the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations.

### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Member/Officer Protocol

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Charles Edward Lord, OBE, JP, Deputy**  
Chair Establishment Committee