

<b>Committee:</b> Standards Committee	<b>Date:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Guidance for Members - Revised Members' Code of Conduct	<b>Public</b>
<b>Joint Report of:</b> The Town Clerk and the Comptroller & City Solicitor	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>A revised Members' Code of Conduct was approved by the Court of Common Council on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014, following a comprehensive consultation exercise involving all Members of the Court and the Standards Committee. The revised Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix 1, includes a broader range of categories requiring registration by Members and Co-opted Members (paragraph 7 of the Members' Code of Conduct). In light of this, and at the Committee's request, revised guidance has been drafted to ensure that all Members are aware of all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct, including those that have recently been introduced.</p> <p>This report seeks Members' views about the revised guidance to Members and, subject to the inclusion of any additional points, the Committee's approval of the guidance so this can be circulated on 1<sup>st</sup> December to all Members and Co-opted Members with a request that Members' Declarations of Interest be updated by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, when the new requirements will take effect.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b> That Members of the Standards Committee -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. consider and comment on the revised <i>Guidance to Members</i> in respect of the Members' Code of Conduct; and</li> <li>ii. subject to the inclusion of any additional points, approve the revised <i>Guidance to Members</i> so this can be circulated to all Members of the Court of Common Council and all Co-opted Members as of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 with a request that Members' Declarations of Interest be updated by 1st January 2015, when the new requirements will take effect.</li> </ul>	

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. The revised Members' Code of Conduct, which was approved by the Court of Common Council on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (Appendix 1), now incorporates a range of categories relevant to non-pecuniary interests (paragraph 7) and which will, as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, require registration by all Members and Co-opted Members.

2. At the Standards Committee's meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Members were advised that, following the introduction of a revised Members' Code of Conduct, revised guidance would be circulated to all Members and Co-opted Members along with a copy of their own declaration and a request to update the Declaration in-line with the new registration requirements. As the new Members' Code of Conduct will take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the guidance needs to be approved with some urgency so that the annual update to the Members' Declarations can proceed and the relevant correspondence circulated to all Members and Co-opted Members as soon as possible.
3. The revised Guidance to Members (Appendix 2) brings together some guidance that was previously made available to Members (Disclosable Interests and Securities) but also reflects the new requirements in respect of non-pecuniary interests and the mandatory registration of gifts and hospitality,

### **Conclusion**

4. In light of the recently approved changes to the Members' Code of Conduct and implementation of the new requirements as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the Town Clerk's Department will be writing to all Members and Co-opted Members in early December with a request that the Members' Declarations are reviewed and, where necessary, updated by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. To ensure that Members are fully aware of all of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct, including the new requirements, revised Guidance to Members will be circulated and the Standards Committee's views are therefore sought ahead of circulation.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Proposed *Guidance to Members- Code of Conduct*
- Appendix 2 – Members' Code of Conduct (as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015)

### **Michael Cogher**

Comptroller & City Solicitor

T: 020 7332 3699 / E: [Michael.cogher@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.cogher@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### **Lorraine Brook**

Committee and Member Services Manager

T: 020 7332 1409 / E: [lorraine.brook@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.brook@cityoflondon.gov.uk)