

Committee:	Date:
Standards Committee	26 January 2018
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information

Summary

In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), this report provides Members with the details of decisions taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, since the Committee's meeting in October 2017.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report be noted.

Main Report

Background

1. Standing Order 41(a) provides a mechanism for decisions to be taken between scheduled meetings of the Standards Committee, where in the opinion of the Town Clerk, it is urgently necessary for a decision to be made. Standing Order 41(b) provides a mechanism for decisions to be taken between scheduled meetings of the Standards Committee, where the Committee has delegated power to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to make a decision.

Decisions Taken Between Meetings (Delegated Authority)

2. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), a decision has been taken in respect of the following matter since the meeting of the Standards Committee on 6 October 2017:- Request for a Dispensation.
3. At the meeting of the Standards Committee on 6 October 2017, the Committee considered a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor on dispensations in relation to the setting of council tax. The Committee were informed by the Comptroller and City Solicitor that Members must make their own decision on whether to apply for a dispensation in order to speak or vote on the setting of council tax, where they have a home within the City. The Department for Communities and Local Government has issued guidance stating that this is not necessary. However, the Committee agreed that such written requests should still be considered when received and that any further written requests be dealt with under delegated authority by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee.

4. A request from Deputy Edward Lord for a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011 to enable Deputy Edward Lord, as a City resident, to speak and vote on matters concerning the setting of council tax was subsequently received. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b) and the above delegation, and in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, the Town Clerk has granted a dispensation under Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 to enable Deputy Edward Lord, as a City resident, to speak and vote on matters concerning the setting of council tax.

Conclusion

5. In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), Members are asked to note the decision taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman since the Standards Committee's meeting on 6 October 2017.

Background Papers:

- Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee on 6 October 2017.

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