

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Standards Committee	18 May 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>

### **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 inquorate meeting in January 2018.

### **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 each case, the decisions are taken in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

#### **Decisions Taken Between Meetings**

2. Decisions have been taken in respect of the following matters since the inquorate meeting of the Standards Committee in January 2018:-
  - (i) **Reappointment of Judith Barnes as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee** (subsequently approved under Standing Order 19).

At the inquorate meeting in January 2018, the Town Clerk was requested to progress a recommendation to the Court of Common Council under the urgent provisions of Standing Order No. 41(a), after consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, for the reappointment of Judith Barnes as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Committee. This recommendation to the Court was subsequently approved by the Town Clerk under Standing Order No. 19 (Court urgency

provisions) with Judith Barnes formally reappointed by the Court for a second and final four-year term of office expiring in March 2022.

**(ii) Submission of comments to the Policy and Resources Committee on Barbican Residential Committee potential conflicts of interest.**

At the inquorate meeting in January 2018, Committee members put forward views (as set out in the minutes of that meeting elsewhere on the agenda) on Barbican Residential Committee potential conflicts of interest and asked the Town Clerk to formally submit these views to the Policy and Resources Committee. After consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, this action was progressed by the Town Clerk under the urgency provisions of Standing Order 41(a).

**(iii) Convening of two meetings of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee to consider alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.**

At the inquorate meeting in January 2018, Committee members were advised by the Comptroller and City Solicitor of an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct arising out of a vote on a matter at the Markets Committee meeting in January. Members asked the Town Clerk to formally convene a meeting of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee to consider this alleged breach. After consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, this action was progressed by the Town Clerk under the urgency provisions of Standing Order 41(a).

Subsequently, the Comptroller and City Solicitor was then advised of another alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct arising out of a vote on a matter at the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting in January. After consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, the Town Clerk formally convened a further meeting of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee to consider this alleged breach under the urgency provisions of Standing Order 41(a).

**(iv) Granting of a dispensation to Mark Bostock, a Member of the Planning and Transportation Committee, to speak on an application at that Committee on 9 April 2018.**

The Town Clerk received a short notice request from Mark Bostock for a dispensation to speak and vote at the Planning and Transportation Committee on 9 April on a planning application in which he had a disclosable pecuniary interest. After consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, and with due regard to a recent decision of the Dispensation Sub (Standards) Committee on a similar request from another Member, the Town Clerk granted a dispensation under the urgency provisions of Standing Order 41(a) to allow Mark Bostock to speak only at the meeting on this application.

## **Conclusion**

3. In accordance with Standing Order 41(a), Members are asked to note the decisions taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman since the Standards Committee's inquorate meeting in January 2018.

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