

Committee: Standards Committee	Date: 6 October 2017
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report Author: Gemma Stokley, Committee and Member Services Officer	

Summary

In accordance with Standing Order 41(b), this report provides Members with the details of a decision taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, since the Committee's last meeting on 15th May 2015.

Recommendation: -

That the contents of the report be noted.

Main Report

Background

1. Standing Order no. 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 No. 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 (Urgency)

2. In accordance with Standing Order 41(a), a decision has been taken in respect of the following matter since the last meeting of the Standards Committee on 19th May 2017:- Request for a dispensation – Deputy David Bradshaw.

3. At its meeting on 19th May 2017, the Standards Committee considered a number of requests for dispensations to speak and/or vote in relation to a car park charging report which was scheduled to be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Barbican Residential committee on 5th June 2017. Those requesting dispensations applied on the grounds that as they are Barbican residents, they may have a conflict of interest (pecuniary) and would not therefore be able to speak/vote on the item. The Standards Committee granted a number of requests to speak on the matter – but not vote – but stressed that the dispensation was entirely permissive in nature and did not impose any restrictions on speaking or voting where no such restrictions otherwise exist.
4. Ahead of the meeting on 19th May, Mr Bradshaw applied for a dispensation to speak/vote on any matter which impacts on Barbican or Golden Lane residents. The Standards committee considered this request to be too wide-ranging and therefore initially rejected the application.
5. Mr Bradshaw subsequently submitted a further application to speak at the next meeting on the grounds that “as an elected member of the Ward of Cripplegate, I would be failing in my duty and responsibility to speak on behalf of my constituents if I was not granted dispensation to speak on this occasion. This dispensation request has been made in the interest of residents living in the City of London.”
6. Mr Bradshaw acknowledged that he had a pecuniary interest in the matter and could not vote on the car park charging report. The request was consistent with the other applications that were considered and approved on 19th May 2017.

Conclusion

7. In accordance with Standing Order 41(a), Members are asked to note the decision taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee to approve this request for a dispensation since the Committee’s last meeting on 19th May 2017.

Background Papers:

- Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee on 19th May 2017.

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