

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Markets	9 May 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Vote on Strategic Markets Review item at January 2018 meeting of the Markets Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Martin Newton, Committee and Member Services Officer	

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the outcome of a recent meeting of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee that considered the details of an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct arising out of a vote on an agenda item at the Markets Committee in January 2018. The outcome is being reported in the public section of the Markets Committee agenda at the request of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee so that the resolution of the matter is known to all.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to receive the report as information.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. At its meeting on 24 January 2018 the Committee considered, as part of its Non-Public business, a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Strategic Markets Review. The recommendations in that report were put to the vote with Common Councilman Gregory Lawrence recorded as having voted against the recommendations.
2. Subsequently, and under the urgency provisions of Standing Order No. 41(a), the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standards Committee, convened a meeting of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee to consider the details of an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct by Mr Lawrence insofar as he had voted on a matter at the Markets Committee in which he had a disclosable pecuniary interest without a dispensation to do so as the report involved, inter-alia, a proposal relating to Smithfield Market where Mr Lawrence carries out his business. Mr Lawrence has a dispensation from the Standards Committee granted on 19 May 2017 which permits him to speak but not vote in relation to matters affecting the Central Markets.

3. The Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee met on 22 March 2018 to consider a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor on the alleged breach.

#### **Outcome of the Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee meeting**

4. The Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee was of the unanimous opinion that Mr Lawrence's actions amounted to a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct and that the letter of apology submitted by Mr Lawrence and his offer to attend Code of Conduct training with the Comptroller was an acceptable resolution of the matter, subject to the training being undertaken within 28 days. The Sub Committee also decided that the Markets Committee should be notified of its decision, and the contents of Mr Lawrence's apology letter, in the public agenda pack for the Committee's next meeting so that the outcome of the matter was known to all.

#### **Conclusion**

5. The Assessments Sub (Standards) Committee has decided that a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct occurred at January's meeting of the Markets Committee and that the submitted letter of apology received in relation to this and attendance at relevant training provides an acceptable resolution in this case.

#### **Contact:**

Martin Newton

T: 020 7332 3154

E: [martin.newton@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:martin.newton@cityoflondon.gov.uk)