


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Standards Information and Guidance Record	
REPORT OF Borough Solicitor	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Standards Committee	DATE: 29 th June 2021
SUMMARY OF REPORT This report sets out the record of standards information and guidance issued to Members of the Council. Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information: Various emails to councillors as detailed in the appendix to the report Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman Principal Committee Officer Crowndale Centre 218 Eversholt Street London NW1 1BD 020 7974 1619 cheryl.hardman@camden.gov.uk	
RECOMMENDATION That Standards Committee notes the record of standards guidance.	
Signed:  Borough Solicitor Date: 11 June 2021	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Standards Committee has a remit to promote standards amongst Members of the Council. As a result it undertakes to regularly update and review guidance issued to Members in line with one of its terms of reference:

Agreeing guidance for councillors on matters related to conduct to be distributed to them and when they deem it appropriate included as part of the constitutional guidance.

- 1.2. The Committee has agreed to maintain a record of when guidance has been updated and/or issued to Members and for that record to be shared with the Committee as a standing item in lieu of a work plan.

2. Changes to the Record

- 2.1. At its meeting on 9th November 2020, having reviewed the record of guidance, a Member suggested that advice to officers on councillors' rights to information which had been circulated in September 2017 be circulated again. It was considered that this was important for transparency. The email was forwarded to the current senior leadership team on 10th November 2020.
- 2.2. On 9th November 2020, Standards Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Borough Solicitor, upon application by Members, to grant a dispensation for four years to Members to participate and vote on a number of specified matters irrespective of whether they have a pecuniary interest. The Chair of Standards Committee wrote to all Members on 11th November 2020 to inform them of this decision and to advise them to apply. As requested at the Committee meeting, commentary was included to clarify that the first dispensation concerning housing was limited to when decisions applied to tenants generally and not when a councillor had a particular interest.
- 2.3. On 14th January 2021, a reminder was sent to all co-opted and ex-officio Members to keep their Register of Interests updated and to register and gifts and hospitality related to their position on a Committee.
- 2.4. On 2nd March 2021, information was circulated regarding the Council's obligations to declare related party transactions and the need to update registers of interest in light of this.
- 2.5. On 7th June 2021, Members were reminded to register any gifts and hospitality for 2020/21.

3. Forthcoming Guidance

- 3.1. There is currently no guidance scheduled to be issued, other than as a result of other reports before the Committee.

3.2. The Committee is invited to suggest any areas where guidance might be reviewed by the Committee at a future meeting or reissued to Members now. Any further comments on the form and content of the record are also welcome.

4. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

4.1. There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

5. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

5.1. This is a report of the Borough Solicitor and there are no other legal comments.

6. Appendices

6.1. Appendix A: Record of guidance and advice on standards and conduct issued to councillors

ENDS