



Standards Committee

28 September 2017

Report from the Chief Legal Officer

Wards affected: ALL

Update on Standards Matters

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings to Members' attention a recent Members' Code of Conduct complaint upheld against Councillor John Duffy and gifts and hospitality registered by Members in the last quarter.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the content of this report.

3.0 DETAILS

Members' Code of Conduct Complaint about Councillor John Duffy

- 3.1 In June and July 2017, the Council's Chief Executive and Councillor Liz Dixon made a Members' Code of Conduct complaint about Councillor John Duffy. The background to the complaint is recorded in the attached Decision Notice as is Councillor Duffy's response, a discussion of the issues arising and the reasons for the Deputy Monitoring Officer's decision.
- 3.2 The complaint about Councillor Duffy was upheld and by way of sanction it was recommended that:
- Councillor Duffy apologises to the Chief Executive;
 - the decision notice be published on the Council's website for 6 months; and
 - the decision be reported to this Committee.
- 3.3 Councillor Duffy did not exercise his right to request a review of the decision which is now final.

- 3.4 To date, Councillor Duffy has not apologised to the Chief Executive. The decision notice has been published on the Council's website and this is the reporting of the complaint and the decision to this Committee.

Update on complaints and gifts and hospitality

- 3.5 At its last meeting, the Committee requested more frequent updates on Member complaints and the registration of gifts and hospitality.
- 3.6 For the most recent quarter (i.e. July, August and September to date), other than the complaint about Councillor Duffy there are no other complaints to report.
- 3.7 During this same period, no gifts and hospitality have been registered by Members.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 None.

Contact Officers

Debra Norman
Chief Legal Officer
Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ
020 8937 5178
Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

Debra Norman
Chief Legal Officer