

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Audit and Standards Advisory Committee</b> 1 August 2022</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from: Director of Legal, HR, Audit &amp; Investigations</b></p>
<p><b>Standards Report (including quarterly update on Gifts &amp; Hospitality, and mandatory training)</b></p>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	<p>1) <b>Appendix A:</b> Gifts &amp; Hospitality Register (Qtr 1)</p> <p>2) <b>Appendix B:</b> CSPL recommendations, LBB Comments and The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) report on Local Government Ethical Standards.</p>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>(1) Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit &amp; Investigations (ext. 1578)</p> <p>(2) Biancia Robinson, Senior Constitutional &amp; Governance Lawyer (ext. 1544)</p>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on gifts and hospitality registered by Members, and the attendance record for Members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

1.2 The report also updates the Committee in respect of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) recommendations, LBB's response to those recommendations and the Governments response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee note the contents of this report.

## 3.0 Detail

### Gifts & Hospitality

- 3.1 Members are required to register gifts and hospitality received in an official capacity worth an estimated value of at least £50. This includes a series of gifts and hospitality from the same person that add up to an estimated value of at least £50 in a municipal year.
- 3.2 Gifts and hospitality received by Members are published on the Council's website and open to inspection at the Brent Civic Centre.
- 3.3 For the first quarter of 2022/23 (April – June 2011), there have been seven gifts and hospitality recorded as being received, these are set out in further detail in Appendix A ,together with the details of the receiving Member.
- 3.4 The Committee will recall that hospitality accepted by the Mayor in their civic role are recorded separately and published on the Council's website.

### Member Training Attendance

- 3.5 Following the 2022 local elections and Annual Council meeting, the mandatory training for all members is due to conclude this month (July). To date, the sessions have generally been well attended. However, some sessions are still to take place and consequently Officers are not in a position, as of today, to update the Committee with respect to the attendance record for Members in relation to mandatory training sessions. Officers will update the Committee at its next meeting on the 20.09.22
- 3.6 The Committee is reminded of the following.
- a) It is a requirement of the Members' Code of Conduct that all members':
- "must attend mandatory training sessions on this Code or Members' standards in general, and in accordance with the Planning Code of Practice and Licensing Code of Practice"* para 19.
- "must attend Safeguarding, Equalities and Data Protection training provided by the council"* para 20.
- b) The schedule for all mandatory sessions was published and approved at the May 2022 Annual Council meeting.
- c) All internal training sessions attended by Members are published on the Council's Website and on individual Member profile pages.
- d) Currently, there are five mandatory training sessions provided for all Members and five mandatory sessions provided for Committee Members and, where appropriate, co-opted Members. These are set out in Table 1 below.

- e) Mandatory sessions are provided annually and all Committee Members and substitutes are required to attend the relevant session. In addition, all other Members are invited to attend the sessions.

3.7 Table 1

<b>Mandatory Training</b>	<b>Attendee requirement</b>
1) Standards and the Code of Practice	All Members
2) Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Children	All Members
3) Safeguarding vulnerable adults	All Members
4) Equalities Training	All Members
5) Data Protection Training	All Members
6) Planning	Committee Members only
7) Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing	Committee Members only
8) Scrutiny Induction	Committee Members only
9) Audit & Standards Committee and the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee induction training	Committee Members only
10) Brent Pensions Fund – Approach to responsible investment	Committee Members only

Government Response to the CSPL Review of Local Government Ethical Standards

- 3.8 This Committee will recall the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) report on ethical standards in local government was published in January 2019. At that time the CSPL made 26 recommendations, which included various amendments to primary and secondary legislation. In addition, identifying a number of examples of best practice which it considered local authorities could implement without the need for changes to legislation.
- 3.9 This Committee will recall the Local Government Association acted on the CSPL's first recommendation with the implementation of the model code of conduct (published in December 2020).
- 3.10 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has now published its response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) report on Local Government Ethical Standards. A copy of which was shared with this committee at its last meeting. A table with the original CSPL recommendations, the London Borough Brent's comments in relation to the recommendations and the Government's response to the recommendations are attached as Appendix B. The Committee will note there is no further action arising out of the Governments response.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 The Council, individual Members and co-opted Members are required to promote and maintain high standards of conduct in accordance with s27 of the Localism Act 2011. The attendance at mandatory training sessions is a means to achieve this and a requirement pursuant to the Brent Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Part 5, of the council's Constitution.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising out of this report.

#### **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 Not applicable.

#### **8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1 Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations