

MINUTES OF THE MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON Thursday, 26th September, 2024, 7pm - 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Barbara Blake, Ibrahim Ali (Chair) and Scott Emery

ALSO ATTENDING: Fiona Alderman (Monitoring Officer) Ayshe Simsek(Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the filming at meetings notice and attendees noted this information.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Simmons – Safo and Cllr Dogan.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

5. DISPENSATION IN RELATION TO MEMBERSHIP OF NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY (NLWA)

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which sought agreement from the Committee to granting Councillor Hakata and Councillor Carlin a dispensation for their membership of NLWA, and to Councillor Hakata in respect of his directorship of LEL, to enable them to participate in debates and votes on matters relating to NLWA and LEL respectively.

The Committee noted that Section 33 Localism Act 2011 provided circumstances where it may be appropriate to grant a dispensation. The authority and the relevant paragraph applicable was (c) *considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area*. The reason set out was that this dispensation may assist in closer alignment between the aims of NLWA and of the Council as a constituent borough. Indeed, it was not uncommon for a standard dispensation to apply to members in respect of interests arising from an appointment by the authority to outside bodies, in this case the appointment to NLWA.

It was noted that a dispensation granted to a member was published on the Council's website and can last up to 4 years.

The Committee further noted that the effect of a dispensation was not to waive an actual or perceived conflict of interest nor to waive the common law position in respect of bias and predetermination in decision-making. In such cases, Members should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer as to how to proceed.

In response to a query, it was noted that Councillor Hakata had been a member of LEL but had only recently taken up this directorship role in LEL. It was noted that should this role become a numerated role then this would become a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and be indicated as a DPI on his Register of Interest. This would further mean that if there was a future decision where this required declaration of this DPI, Cllr Hakata would need to recuse himself from that meeting.

The Committee discussed the dispensation lasting 4 years and given the local elections were in 2026 and to ensure as much clarity as possible, it was felt the dispensation should last 2 years.

RESOLVED

1. To grant a dispensation to Councillor Hakata and Councillor Carlin to allow them to participate in debates and votes on matters relating to NLWA business: waste disposal, energy from waste, waste facilities, waste transfer stations, reuse and recycling and any other waste related issues until Councillor Hakata and Councillor Carlin cease to be a member of NLWA; and until May 2026.
2. To grant a dispensation to Councillor Hakata to allow him to participate in debates and votes on matters relating to LEL business: waste disposal, energy from waste, waste facilities, waste transfer stations, reuse and recycling and any other waste related issues until Councillor Hakata ceases to be a director of London Energy Ltd and until May 2026.
3. That granting the dispensation was in the interests of persons living in the authority's area.
4. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to prepare the dispensation for publication on the Council's website.

Reasons for decision

Under the Council's Constitution, the Standards Committee is responsible for granting dispensations to councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.

Alternative options considered

To not grant a dispensation. Where a dispensation is not granted, a councillor present at a meeting with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting may not participate in any discussion nor vote on the matter and must withdraw from the room.

CHAIR: Councillor Ibrahim Ali

Signed by Chair

Date