

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

REFERENCE TO COUNCIL – 3RD MARCH 2025

FROM THE AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 20TH FEBRUARY 2025

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

At its meeting on 20th February 2025, the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee considered a report of the Borough Solicitor in respect of minor proposed constitutional changes.

The Committee debated the report and a number of suggestions were made including:

- Adding Borough Solicitor's notes to the report going to Council to provide further clarity on the wording used.
- That paragraph 27.2 should be amended to read "Deputations from those who are either standing for political office, hold political office ~~or have publicly declared that they intend to hold political office~~ or have publicly declared that they intend to stand **and are campaigning on their own behalf** will not be accepted nor will they be allowed to be part of a deputation or petition party."

After discussion, the Committee requested and Borough Solicitor agreed to add Borough Solicitor's notes to the proposed changes in order to aid interpretation, although acknowledging that these notes do not themselves form part of the Constitution. These notes have subsequently been drafted as below:-

Borough Solicitor Notes

1. "Significant" – when assessing whether something is significant there needs to be a balance struck between, for example, the numbers of people impacted and how impacted they personally are against what if any functions or role the Council might have in alleviating that impact. This would, as with any decision, be required to be a reasonable decision when assessing the facts in the round against the criteria. It will be accepted that while something may be significant to an individual or a few individuals, it may not be significant to the Council as a corporate body.
2. "Political office" – a member of parliament, a member of the Greater London Authority, a councillor of any local authority or any elected political office of any nature.
3. "Function" means activities carried out by the Council pursuant to its powers and duties

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL –

- i) THAT the constitutional changes as set out in the report, subject to the amendment highlighted above and the addition of the Borough Solicitor's notes set out above, be agreed;

- ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Borough Solicitor to make all necessary amendments to the Constitution arising from this decision.

Councillor Meric Apak
Chair, Audit and Corporate Governance Committee