

**Governance Directorate  
Legal Services**

To All Councillors

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6 November 2017

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Our Ref: L/AH/db  
Your Ref:

Dear Councillor

**RE: Mayoral and Local elections 2018**

I am writing concerning preparations for the Mayoral and Local elections on 3 May next year.

We will be issuing detailed pre-election guidance to all Members and officers nearer the time and I have offered to attend political group meetings to provide briefings.

As you will be aware campaigning can begin at any time and you do not have to wait until you officially become a candidate before you start campaigning.

Electoral fraud has been a serious issue in the borough. One of the many concerns that the High Court judgement delivered in April 2015 considered was bribery and grants. The court found that the making of some grants amounted to the corrupt electoral practice of bribery under section 113 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

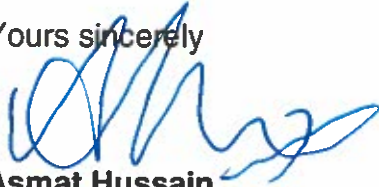
If you are standing as a candidate next year please be aware in the context of grants (and other issues) that the offence of bribery includes where someone directly or indirectly gives any money to or procures any office for any voter, in order to induce any voter to vote or not.

You will appreciate as a Councillor you will be one of the key public faces of the election and your conduct will be scrutinised by your opponents, the media and voters. You will need to ensure that when seeking support for your candidacy you comply with the law and maintain the integrity of the election process.

The Electoral Commission issued guidance for candidates and agents in December last year which includes a list of election offences at pages 13-15. The guidance is available at the link below:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/141788/Part-4-The-campaign-LGEW.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/141788/Part-4-The-campaign-LGEW.pdf)

Yours sincerely



**Asmat Hussain**  
**Corporate Director Governance & Monitoring Officer**