



Cllr Nate Higgins & Cllr Danny Keeling  
Green Group

17th May 2022. Delivered by email.

## **USE OF COUNCIL RESOURCES FOR PARTY POLITICAL PROMOTION**

Dear Asmat Hussain (Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer, London Borough of Newham)

We're writing to you to inform you of a recent retweet on the 16th of May by the @NewhamLondon Twitter account of a tweet promoting party political activity by Mayor Fiaz. A screenshot of this retweet has been provided alongside this letter and the original tweet can be found at <https://twitter.com/rokhsanafiaz/status/1525837678230519809>

On the 16th of May, Mayor Fiaz visited Stratford Olympic Park in order to deliver party political leaflets using the Labour Party logo and describing herself as the "Labour Mayor" after her re-election. Mayor Fiaz used a photo of this to promote herself as the "Newham Labour champion" for residents in the Mayor's tweet, holding these party political leaflets and wearing a Labour party rosette. Mayor Fiaz also used a further tweet in the thread to promote "Mayor surgeries" in the ward, which do not appear to be an official duty and would therefore be considered party political also.

The Newham London Twitter account has been promoting the Mayor's activity throughout the first week since the Mayor's re-election, including visits to various locations and activities throughout the borough. Many of the photos appear to be professionally captured and it is our assumption that council resources are being used to pay for this.

On May the 16th, the Newham London Twitter account retweeted this entirely party political tweet, promoting the Mayor's activity as a representative of the Labour party, not activity in Fiaz's role as Mayor. We are also concerned that the same council resources that may have been used to take the professional photos in the other tweets were used for this party promotion.

Could you please advise whether the Newham London Twitter account being used for party political promotion is allowable within Council rules, whether the use of Council resources to fund professional photography for party political promotion is allowable within Council rules (and how we might ascertain whether Council resources were indeed used), and how we might go about redressing this if it is a breach of Council rules and preventing it from happening again in the future.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Nate Higgins & Cllr Danny Keeling  
Councillors for Stratford Olympic Park  
Green Group