

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 March 2016
Subject:	Review of Protocol for Member/Officer Relations
Report of:	Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer
Corporate Lead:	Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer
Number of Appendices:	Three.

Executive Summary:

The Standards Committee has met as a Working Group to review the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations and Members are now asked to consider the revised Protocol and recommend it to Council for approval.

Recommendation:

That it be RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations, as attached at Appendix 3 to the report, be APPROVED.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations is relevant and to assist the Committee in meeting its aim of ensuring high standards of ethics and probity.

Resource Implications:

None.

Legal Implications:

None specifically in relation to this report.

Risk Management Implications:

None in relation to this report.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Any further amendments required will be made to the Protocol.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1** At its meeting on 12 October 2015 the Standards Committee considered a report which detailed a proposed Work Programme for the Committee for 2015/16.
- 1.2** It was agreed that the Committee commence a review of the Member/Officer Relations Protocol and, in the first instance, it was suggested that the whole Committee meet as a Working Group and speak to Members and senior Officers to ascertain their views on the effectiveness of the Protocol and what, if any, changes would improve it.

2.0 REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

- 2.1** As agreed in October 2015, the whole Committee met as a Working Group on two occasions to undertake the review of the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations. The first meeting, held in November 2015, gained the views of the following Members and senior Officers:

Vice-Chair of Licensing Committee.
Chair of Planning Committee.
Chair of Licensing Committee.
Vice-Chair of Planning Committee.
Chief Executive.
Deputy Chief Executive.
Deputy Leader of Council.
Leader of Council.
Corporate Services Group Manager.
Development Manager.
Finance and Asset Management Group Manager.
Lead Member for Organisational Development.
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

- 2.2** Following that meeting, the points raised were considered and the action proposed to be taken against each was set out, see attached Appendix 1. The amendments were considered by the Working Group at its subsequent meeting in January 2016 and, following agreement of the Working Group, the amended document, which is attached at Appendix 3, was sent to Members, the Corporate Leadership Team and Group Managers and placed on the Council's intranet for all staff to comment on should they so wish. That consultation period ended on 26 February 2016. There were comments of support for the Protocol as drafted and a small number of suggested amendments. The latter (except where made previously and dealt with in Appendix 1) are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.3** The Working Group agreed that, subject to there not being any major new issues being raised as a result of the consultation, the proposed amendments would be considered by the Standards Committee at its next meeting rather than it being submitted to a further meeting of the Working Group. With this in mind Members are asked to agree the final revisions to be made to the Protocol and recommend it to Council for approval. The draft revised Protocol is attached to the report for consideration (Appendix 3).

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1** None.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation was undertaken with all Members and Officers during the review of the Protocol.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 None.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 None.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 None.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 None.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 Standards Committee on 12 October 2015.

Background Papers: None.

Contact Officer: Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer Tel: 01684 272011.
Email: sara.freckleton@teWKesbury.gov.uk

Appendices:

1. List of Points Raised by Members and Officers and Action Taken.
2. New Points Received and Action Taken During the Consultation.
3. Revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.