

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	19 April 2016
Subject:	Review of Protocol for Member/Officer Relations
Report of:	Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer
Corporate Lead:	Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer
Number of Appendices:	One.

Executive Summary:

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. It was agreed that the Committee would review the Member/Officer Relations Protocol. In order to complete this task it was decided that the whole Committee should meet as a Working Group and seek the views of Members and senior Officers on the effectiveness of the Protocol and what, if any, changes would improve it.

At its meeting on 21 March 2016 the Standards Committee considered the amended Protocol for Member/Officer Relations, attached at Appendix 1, and recommended it to the Council for approval.

Recommendation:

That the revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be APPROVED.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations is relevant and to assist the Standards 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. It was agreed that the Committee would 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. Following that process the Standards Committee would need to recommend a revised Protocol to the Council for approval.

2.0 PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

2.1 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 consequently the Working Group made a number of amendments as considered appropriate. The amended document was then sent to all Members, the Corporate Leadership Team and Group Managers and was placed on the Council's intranet for all staff to comment on should they so wish. That consultation period ended on 26 February 2016 and resulted in comments of support for the Protocol as drafted and a small number of suggested amendments.

2.3 At its meeting on 21 March 2016, the Standards Committee considered the suggestions made through the consultation process and made some further minor refinements to the Protocol. The document at Appendix 1 includes all amendments and refinements approved by the Standards Committee and is now recommended to Council for approval.

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 and 21 March 2016.

Background Papers: None.

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

Appendices: 1. Revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.