

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 18th JUNE 2009

REVIEW OF MEMBER OFFICER PROTOCOL

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

To update the Standards Committee with regard to the review of the Member Officer protocol.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of this report are noted.

3. SUMMARY

The Standards Committee work plan for 2009 – 2010 has set out that there will be a review of the Member Officer protocol. The review is currently ongoing.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee – 21st April 2009 (ST-39)

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

The protocol on Member/Officer relations is currently contained within the Council's constitution at Part 5, Section 3 (copy attached at Appendix 1). The need for a review of this protocol was reflected in the work plan established by the Standards Committee for the current municipal year. A review of the protocol has been commenced and the Monitoring Officer aims to have a first draft of an updated policy available for consultation shortly. This is likely to go beyond the initial deadline of July 2009 set out in the Standards Committee's work plan.

The Standards Committee may wish to provide comments in respect of the existing protocol to assist the Monitoring Officer during the review process. The Monitoring Officer will continue to keep the Standards Committee up to date with regard to progress in this matter.

5.2 Equality and Diversity

Any updated/revised Member Officer protocol must ensure fairness for all employees and elected members and comply with all equality legislation.

5.3 Environmental Implications

None

5.4 Legal Comment

A Member Officer protocol is not a legal requirement but is recommended as good practice.

If the protocol is to be changed it will have to be approved by the Council Constitution Committee and ratified by a meeting of the full Council before it becomes effective.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

Having an up to date and effective member officer protocol assists the Council in achieving the Corporate Priority of being an efficient effective and customer-focused Council.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

The risks associated with the revision of the Member Officer protocol have been assessed. Every effort will be made to ensure that all opportunities that arise from this review are maximised and that any risks involved are managed effectively.

5.7 Financial Implications

The review is being undertaken within existing budgets and no additional costs are anticipated.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

District wide implications

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

End of Report

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