
Standards Committee: Member Officer Relations Protocol

Background and context

- 1** The Code of Conduct in the constitution includes a long-established protocol setting out the expectations for conduct between members and officers in a range of contexts. It also covers aspects of member rights and responsibilities such as access to information and advice from officers, including to political groups.

Proposal details

- 2** The Council has been reviewing aspects of how it functions, some touching upon the culture within the Council including aspects of conduct and relations. The behaviour of members in their roles and in relations with officers falls within the remit of the Standards Committee as part of its oversight of the Code of Conduct.
- 3** The Protocol on Member Officer Relations has long been the reference point for defining the expectations of behaviour between officers and members for the effective management of Council business. It has not been substantively revised since the adoption of the current Code of Conduct several years ago.
- 4** A proposed revision of the protocol has been prepared and has been approved by the Standards Committee. It is **attached as Appendix 1**. It seeks to maintain all of the aims of the current protocol whilst ensuring that it is better aligned with the Council's values and, as part of the wider good governance project, with a new 'dignity and respect at work' policy which is under preparation.
- 5** Additional member comments since the meeting of the Committee have also been invited and incorporated into the attached text. The Council is asked to approve the text for inclusion in the Code of Conduct.

Recommended

That the revised protocol, as set out at Appendix 1, be approved for inclusion in the Code of Conduct section of the Constitution.

Janet Duncton

Chairman of the Standards Committee

Contact Officer: Tony Kershaw, 033 022 22662,
tony.kershaw@westsussex.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Member Officer Relations Protocol

Background papers

None