

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

31ST MARCH 2009

REVIEW OF PROTOCOL ON RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Roger Smith
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton, Monitoring Officer
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the Council's Protocol on Relations between Members on an ongoing basis. The Committee was requested to consider how to undertake such a review at its last meeting and members requested more information before taking a decision.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That no recommendation is made to Council to review the Protocol.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the last meeting the Group Leaders have been consulted for their views on the Protocol. They have generally welcomed the existence of the Protocol as it gives a framework within which they can resolve any inter-member issues in a structured, albeit informal, manner. They have confirmed there have been a number of instances when they have relied on the Protocol to resolve issues and have found that it has worked. The Group Leaders did not consider it appropriate to disclose examples of the issues resolved using the Protocol. The Protocol makes it clear that any issues should be resolved by the respective Group Leaders; officers do not get involved and are therefore not in a position to give examples of instances when the Protocol has been relied upon.
- 3.2 Members also requested clarification on whether the new Code of Conduct has superseded this Protocol. The Protocol is intended to cover different issues which would not generally amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct. Members of the Standards Committee will be aware from training and the Standards Board Case Review that on the whole a fairly robust attitude was taken by the SBE when assessing cases as to what constituted disrespect as between elected members. The Protocol is intended to fill that void and to deal with other issues, such as one member operating in another member's ward, which are not covered by the Code of Conduct.

3.3 It is suggested that in view of the Group Leaders' comments it is unnecessary to recommend to Council that this Protocol be reviewed at this point.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 This item does not link directly to any of the Council's objectives.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no significant risks associated with this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	None
Governance/Performance Management	None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	None
Environmental	None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No
Executive Director - Services	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Protocol on Relations between Members

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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