



ISLINGTON

Corporate Resources
Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Report of : Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards Committee	17 October 2006	10	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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Subject: Draft Protocol on Member/Officer Relations

1. Synopsis

This report sets out a revised draft protocol on member/officer relations following discussions with both political groups. The updated protocol includes details on the provision of information to Members and media relation issues.

2. Recommendation

To consider and comment on the draft protocol as appropriate.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Standards Committee, at their meeting in March 2003, considered and made a number of changes to the protocol on member/officer relations. This was then subsequently agreed by Council in September 2003 and formed one of the sections in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2 Following the borough elections in May 2006, discussions were held with both political groups on a range of procedural and legal matters.
- 3.3 Given the change in political composition on the Council and to help clarify many of the issues raised by Members, the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations has been updated.

3.4 The draft protocol is set out at Appendix A and the changes since the March 2003 Protocol are highlighted in the report. These relate to the provision of information to Members, media relations, roles of committees, group offices and the Mayor.

3.5 The Committee is asked to comment on the revised Protocol as appropriate.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

None.

4.2 Legal Implications

Both the District Auditor and government guidance suggests that authorities should have such a protocol in place in terms of best practice.

4.3 Equality Implications

4.3.1 The relationship between Councillors and officer s is an essential ingredient of the successful working of the organisation. This relationship is characterised by mutual respect and trust.

4.3.2 The protocol has been drawn up as guidance to both members and officers to try and clarify roles/responsibilities in the new democratic arrangements.

Background papers:

(Insert details here)

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

Director of Corporate Resources

Date

Received by

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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