

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

24 April 2024

Review of Member/ Officer Relations Protocol

Recommendation

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that:**
 - a) The progress on the review of the Member/ Officer protocol be noted;**
 - b) Further time is given for the ADLG to receive feedback from chief officers and members; and**
 - c) The final draft of the protocol to be considered at the Committee meeting on 3 July 2024.**

Background

2. At the meeting on 17 January members of the committee provided feedback on matters they would expect to see in a Member/ Officer relations protocol.
3. Suggestions to include were:
 - Specific reference to the Nolan Principles
 - Communication
 - relationships between individuals
 - confidentiality
 - social media
 - Access to information
 - Where is the protocol saved?
 - Sanctions available for breaching the Protocol should be included in the protocol
 - Pre-election guidance
 - Summary of roles of Members and Officers
4. Feedback on the current member/ officer relations protocol has been requested from group leaders and Chief Officers. It is proposed more time is given to receive this feedback to allow for a proper consultation period. An officer group are currently reviewing the contract and finance standing orders. A report will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 6 June 2024. The table below sets out the proposed decision-making timetable for the revised Member/ Officer protocol.

Audit and Governance Committee	6 June 2024
Standards and Ethics Committee	3 July 2024
Council meeting	11 July 2024

5. Attached to this report is a working draft of the Member Officer relations protocol taking into account the initial feedback received from committee members on 16 January 2024. This is not a final draft.

Supporting Documents

Appendix - Working draft of the Member Officer relations protocol

[APPENDIX 12 January 2020 Member officer relations vf.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.