

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**REVIEW OF PROTOCOL OF MEMBER OFFICER RELATIONS
(PART E CODE 3 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION)**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a draft revised 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' (Part E Code 3 of the council's Constitution) attached as appendix 2.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on 5 October 2023 (minute 2927 refers) approved a review of the above protocol as requested by the Leader of the Council and his Executive, which complied with good practice to review regularly codes and protocols contained within Part E of the council's Constitution. In accordance with requirements of Article 15 (15.01) 'Review and Revision of the Constitution' this review is to be carried out through the council's Standards Committee and a recommended revised draft protocol be reported to the December meeting of the Council for consideration and approval.
- 2.2 Having researched and corresponding protocols of other councils, and considered the associated content of the council's Code of Conduct for Members, Code of Conduct for Officers and the council's Media Relations and Publicity Management Policy, the council's current 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' attached as appendix 1 has been reviewed and a draft revised protocol is attached as appendix 2 for the committee's consideration.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To recommend to Council that the revised draft protocol on Member/Officer Relations at appendix 2 be approved and adopted (with any suggested amendments included).

- 3.2 That the revised draft protocol on Member/Officer Relations not be approved and adopted.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 1.1 A review of Part E Code 3 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' has been carried out in accordance with good practice and complies with Article 15 'Review and Revision of the Constitution. The revised draft protocol provides an enhanced guide for members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another in such a way as to ensure the smooth running of the Council and to foster good working relationships.
- 1.2 The protocol also seeks to reflect the principles underlying the respective Codes of Conduct which apply to members and officers. The shared objective of these Codes is to enhance and maintain the integrity of local government and the Codes, therefore, they demand very high standards of personal conduct. Members and officers must at all times observe the protocol. Consequently, a breach of the provisions of the protocol may also constitute a breach of those Codes.
- 1.3 This meeting of the Standards Committee as an experienced cross-party group of members has the opportunity to consider the revised draft protocol and the meeting may also provide members who are not members of the Standards Committee with an opportunity to attend the meeting and observe or request to comment through the usual Council Procedure Rule D1.37b.
- 1.4 Not to recommend approval of the revised draft 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' will not comply with good practice, not provide an enhanced guide for members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another, which may impact upon their working relations and the operations, outcomes and reputation of the council and local government.

5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial/resource implications associated with this report.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 Effective member/officer working relations enhances and increases opportunities to deliver the desired outcomes of the council plan.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required for this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 The Head of Corporate Marketing and Communications and Monitoring Officer have been consulted.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interest.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the revised draft 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' Relations' (Part E Code 3 of the council's Constitution) be considered, and it be recommended to Council that it be approved and adopted.

DIRECTOR OF OUTCOMES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

The corresponding protocols of other councils, the council's Code of Conduct for members and for officers, and the council's Media Relations and Publicity Management Policy.