

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

#### **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, approve and adopt a draft revised 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' (Part E Code 3 of the council's Constitution) attached as appendix 2, as recommended to Council by the Standards Committee.

##### **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 and a recommended revised draft protocol has been carried out through and considered by the council's Standards Committee at its meeting on 9 November 2023. The Committee recommended to Council that the reviewed draft protocol be approved and adopted.
- 2.2 The review of the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations included research of 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' is attached as appendix 1 and a draft revised protocol is attached as appendix 2.

##### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To approve and adopt the revised draft protocol on Member/Officer Relations at appendix 2.

3.2 That the revised draft protocol on Member/Officer Relations not be approved and adopted and be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 A review of Part E Code 3 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' was 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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 Monitoring Officer and Head of Corporate Marketing and Communications were consulted as part of the review of the protocol.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interest.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the revised draft 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' Relations' be approved and adopted and included as Part E Code 3 of the council's Constitution.

DIRECTOR: 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.