

## REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### REVISION OF THE PROTOCOLS ON MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS, AND USE OF RESOURCES, AND THE PLANNING CODE FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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1. As promised in its Report to Council of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007, the Standards Committee reviewed these documents at its meeting on the 19th October 2007, in order to make them consistent with the new Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in July.

2. **REVISION OF THE PROTOCOL ON MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS APPENDIX 12 ANNEX 1 (A12 9 – 12) OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Standards Committee has reviewed this Protocol. There are some minor drafting/editorial changes:

1.5 second line, comma after "do".

2.1, second line at end add "be", thus "or be an MP".

2.3 second line "Leader" should be singular.

Line 5, commas around "or attend any meeting".

2.5, last line, change to "Members-only"

2.6, third line, comma after "that".

Fifth line, comma after "themselves".

2.7, last line, initial caps for "group leader(s)".

3.1, first line "Members' Services" for "Member's Services"

Second line, "which also covers" for "extended to cover"

3.3, first line "because" for "as"

5.2, first line "Part 6 of the Constitution" for "The Constitution, Part 6"

5.4 first line "Department or Directorate" for "Department/Directorate".

6.1 fourth line, "for guiding and supporting" for "to guide and support"

8.1 second line, change to: "However, there is no objection to officers giving...."

Fourth line, insert "in order" after "officers"

Sixth line, capital M for "Member"

8.2, third line, "for example" for "e.g." (we don't need any Latin!)

Fifth line, leave out "for example,"

3. **REVISION OF THE PROTOCOL USE OF COUNCIL RESOURCES BY MEMBERS  
APPENDIX 12 ANNEX 2 (A12-13-14) OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Standards Committee has reviewed this Protocol. There are two minor drafting/editorial amendments:

2.1 stop at end of para.

3.2 substitute "including" for second "this will include" (to avoid repetition).

4. **REVISION OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR  
MEMBERS AND OFFICERS DEALING WITH PLANNING MATTERS APPENDIX  
13 (A13 –1 TO) OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Standards Committee reviewed this Code in the light of the new Code of Conduct for Members adopted by the Council at its meeting on the 27th July 2007. The Council had resolved to adopt the discretionary provisions of Paragraph 12 (2) of the revised code, permitting members to participate at meetings where they have a personal and prejudicial interest.

5. The Standards Committee's recommended changes to the Planning Code are set out in the "track changes" version of the Code, which, due to printing constraints, has been sent separately to this agenda. The "track changes" version shows the proposed changes clearly and in context.

6. The main changes of substance are in the handling of provisions relating to "dual hatted" Members (those who are elected to Town or Parish Councils in addition to their Herefordshire Council responsibilities). The Committee has sought to take the position of these Members fully into account, while maintaining a balance with the legal and other requirements of the planning process. These changes in the parent Code were welcomed by Councillors when Council approved that Code in July.

7. The committee has also taken the opportunity to make a number of minor changes to improve drafting and clarity. These too will be clear from the track changes version.

**The Standards Committee recommends that**

**The revised documents be approved.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None