



AGENDA ITEM: 5

SUMMARY

Report for:	Standards Committee
Date of meeting:	22nd September 2016
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Protocol for Member/Officer Relations
Contact:	Mark Brookes (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer) Directline: 01442 228236, internal extension: 2226 Mark.brookes@dacorum.gov.uk
Purpose of report:	To seek Standards Committee approval to the revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.
Recommendation	That Standards Committee recommend Council to adopt the revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.
Corporate objectives:	The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members of the Council will assist the Council in achieving its priorities of performance excellence and reputation and profile delivery. The Committee will also ensure that Members are accountable to the public for their actions and ensure that Members work within and comply with the Code of Conduct for Members.
Implications: 'Value For Money	There are financial and efficiency costs to the Council in having to deal with complaints made under the Code of Conduct. There are, therefore, value for money benefits to the Council in striving to ensure that complaints against

Implications'	Members are minimised are as far as possible and any complaints that are received are dealt with as cost effectively as possible.
Risk Implications	The risk to the Council in not having in place a robust local standards regime could mean that Members do not perform their role in the best interests of the public which could damage the Council's reputation for good governance and undermine public confidence in the Council as a whole.
Monitoring Officer	This is a report prepared by the Solicitor to the Council in his capacity as Monitoring Officer.
Consultees:	None
Background papers:	Code of Conduct For Members Code of Conduct for Employees

Protocol for Member/Officer Relations

1. The Protocol for Member/Officer Relations was last adopted on 14th June 2006. It is therefore appropriate that the Protocol should be reconsidered and updated as many of its provisions are out of date and do not reflect current legislation or working practices.
2. Members will find annexed to this report a proposed revised Protocol which shows changes proposed by the Solicitor to the Council in red tracked changes.
3. The Solicitor to the Council will lead a discussion on the proposed amendments and Members are requested to read the Protocol in advance of the meeting and suggest any further amendments for consideration.
4. The revised Protocol will be submitted to Council for final approval following Committee's approval.
5. Draft work plan for 2016/17

The draft work plan is set out below for information.

Committee Date	Agenda Items
22 nd September 2016	1. To report on any standards complaints

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer on the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations
8 th December 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To report on any standards complaints 2. To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer on the Planning Code of Practice
9 th March 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To report on any standards complaints 2. Training for Standards Committee Members