

Table of Responses to Consultation on Protocol on Member/Officer Relations

Reference	Comments on Current protocol	Summary of Recommended Amendment
1. Introduction	Introduction should explain relationship between this Protocol and other relevant Codes and Protocols	Paragraph 1 of the Protocol is amended to include a brief introduction to principles and reference to other relevant documents
1. Introduction	The introduction makes reference to respective roles in the title and then does not provide guidance on the respective roles	Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Protocol are amended to include brief guidance on respective roles
1.3.	Includes an extract from Code of Conduct under the heading of respective roles but does not provide any guidance	Brief guidance is included on the respective roles – see paragraphs 3 and 4
1.4 and 1.5	The current protocol does not provide sufficient guidance on the principles of officer/members relations	Brief guidance is included on respective roles – see paragraph 2.2
2. Political Neutrality	This is a specific employee issue	The information has been removed as it is contained in Employee Code of Conduct. A reference to this Code has been included in the Protocol
3.2	“other than in respect of chief officers” missing word?	Reworded to include ‘than’ – see paragraph 3.1
5.2	Refers to an overview and scrutiny committee or a committee – is reference to overview and scrutiny unnecessary as could just refer to committee	The reference to overview and scrutiny is amended– see paragraph 7.2
7. Officer advice to party political groups	The title only refers to advice when the remit of the paragraph is wider	Amended to read relationships instead of advice – see paragraph 9
7.4	Information poorly presented	The paragraph has been reformatted – see paragraph 9
7	No information on how officers and/or members can raise queries	A paragraph has been included regarding how to raise queries – see paragraph 9.6

9 Access to information	The information does not reflect the current structure or working practices of the council	The Protocol has been amended to provide brief summary of rights of access at the start and to reflect current structure and working practices – see paragraph 13
10. Involvement with Ward Councillors	Currently after access to information	Move to paragraph after paragraph 7
	Provides information about members attending meetings but nothing on role of officers	Brief paragraph included on role of officer – see paragraph 3.1
13.1 Complaints	Nothing in the Protocol to deal with a complaint against the Monitoring Officer	The protocol has been amended to included a process when dealing with a complaint against the Monitoring Officer
13.2	The Protocol does not outline what might happen in the case of a minor complaint	The Protocol has been amended to provide the detail of a process for dealing with minor complaints – see paragraph 14.2