

Subject: Protocol – Publicity During Elections

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Standards Committee

Date: 8th March 2007

Report of: Head of Planning, Legal and Democratic Services

Portfolio

Holder: Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk Management

Key Decision:

NO

Forward Plan
Relevant Box

General Exception

Special Urgency

“X” In

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Members are requested to approve the attached Protocol (Schedule 1) in relation to publicity during elections.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- Equipping members to fulfil their role as leaders in the community by ensuring that strong ethical governance arrangements are in place which will increase public confidence in the high ethical standards required and maintained by the Council.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Loss of confidence in Members, the Council and local democracy
- Bad publications.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct.

4.2 Attached is a suggested Protocol governing the issue of publicity during elections which, if approved, would provide clarity in terms of ethical governance.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 There are no immediate financial issues arising from this Report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 As in the Report

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 There are no immediate human resources issues arising from this Report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Members are requested to consider the suggested Protocol relating to the issue of publicity during elections.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 Members of the Committee are asked to consider and approve the attached Protocol for Publicity During Elections.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Constitution Working Group

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Background Papers

Protocol for Publicity During Elections