

Report To: Standards Committee

Date of Meeting: 18th September 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Gary Williams, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

Report Author: Lisa Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer

Title: Self Regulatory Protocol for Town, City and Community Councils.

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To provide Members with a draft protocol similar to the County Council version but adjusted to take into consideration the size, composition and resources of community councils.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 Standards Committee has been involved in the development of a Self Regulatory Protocol at County Council level and attached is a first draft of a potential version for recommendation to town, city and community councils.

2.2 Furthermore, the PSOW has recommended that self regulatory protocols at a community level ought to be developed in due course. No specific timescale has been set and the option of adopting is one for each town, city and community council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Members note the draft protocol and offer views on any changes required, the practical implication of adoption by councils and any other aspect which can assist the Monitoring Officer in crafting a suitable protocol.

4. Report Details

4.1 The draft protocol is attached as Appendix 1 together with outline principles. It is not suggested that the protocol should be much more detailed than this as the process is designed to be paper light, with the emphasis on face to face discussions, mediation and compromise of disputes or issues in a conciliatory manner.

4.2 Standards Committee may consider that their role should be greater, or less and a steer is sought in relation to this. The input of the Monitoring Officer is minimal as the issue is one of the resolution of low level disputes which ought to be able to be dealt with locally at a community level or with the assistance of a

peer review approach with support from a neighbouring or other community council; a reference to the full standards committee shall be a last resort.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 A high functioning council working closer to it's communities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 There are no implications for other services as a result of this report.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

7.1 No consultations have been carried out as yet; it is proposed that Clerks Cluster meetings will receive a final draft for consideration. There is no requirement for additional consultations within the County Council as the protocol is not for their adoption.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement.

8.1 There are no additional costs directly associated with this process.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

9.1 There are no identified risks.

10. Power to make the decision

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.