

**CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS' DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

Report title	Member/Officer Protocol	
Chief Executive or Director	James Bromiley Strategic Director for Finance Governance and Support	
Date	27 April 2018	
Purpose of the report	To consider possible amendments to the Member/Officer Protocol.	
Summary of the report	The report suggests alterations to the Member/Officer Protocol, to ensure clarity in relation to breaches of that protocol, and in relation to the role and management of Political Assistants.	
If this is a key decision, which key decision test applies?*	Over the financial threshold (£150,000)	
	Amends the Council's policy framework	
	Affects two or more wards	
	Non-key	X
If this is a confidential report, which category of exemption(s) from the Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 applies?	<i>Not applicable</i>	
Decision(s) asked for	That the proposed changes to the Member/Officer Protocol are endorsed, and commended to Council for agreement.	
Impact of decision(s)	Members will have additional clarity in relation to Breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol, and the role of Political Assistants.	

What is the purpose of this report?

- To set out the proposed changes to the Member/Officer Protocol, and to seek endorsement for the changes to proceed to Council.

Why is this report necessary?

2. As part of a standards hearing conducted in 2017 it was agreed that the issue of breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol would be referred to the Constitution and Members' Development Committee for consideration.
3. In light of this, a revised version of the Member/Officer Protocol has been prepared (and is attached at Appendix 1) which provides clarity in relation to such breaches and the consequences thereof, through the introduction of a new Section 20 to the Protocol.
4. In addition, whilst the document was under review it was considered appropriate to clarify the paragraphs of the Member/Officer Protocol which relate to Political Assistants.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

5. That the Constitution and Members' Development Committee endorses the approach set out in the report, and commends it to Council for consideration and decision.

Why is this being recommended?

6. The proposed changes will serve to provide additional clarity for Members in relation to the Member/Officer Protocol.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

7. The only other option available would be to do nothing. This would leave Members without the additional certainty which the suggested alteration would achieve.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

8. There are no legal implications of the proposed changes.

Financial

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough

10. The statement is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough.

Policy Framework

11. The changes do not adversely impact upon the Council's policy framework.

Wards

12. Not applicable. No wards are directly affected by this document.

Equality and Diversity

13. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as the changes will not adversely impact on any individual group.

Risk

14. The proposed changes provide for the risk of delay to be managed in an appropriate manner.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

15. Once approved the proposed changes to the Member/Officer Protocol will be referred to Council for a decision.

Background to Proposal**Appendices**

16. Appendix 1 – Proposed Revised Member/Officer Protocol.

Background papers

17. There are no background papers to this report.