

	
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	25 June 2010
Report of the Monitoring Officer	

Guidance on Blogging

Summary

1. Standards for England has produced a quick guide for Members on blogging and social networking.

Background

2. In recent years there has been a growth in the numbers of Councillors across the country using new technology as a means of interacting with their constituents. Councillors are using blogs hosted on their own websites and social networking sites such as facebook and twitter. Many Councils (but not the City of York) provide their Members with websites to use for their Council business.
3. There are a few examples of cases where Councillors use of such technology has brought them into conflict with the Code of Conduct. Standards for England has now added to its library of quick guides with a new guide specifically designed to help Councillors to avoid such conflicts. A copy of the Guidance is annexed to this report.

Corporate Priorities

4. Helping Councillors to comply with the Code of Conduct is a key part of the role of the Standards Committee. This in turn is an essential part of the 'Effective Organisation' strand of the Corporate Strategy. Effective ethical governance is a key aspect of corporate governance overall which is an important priority for the Council.

Recommendations

5. That the Standards Committee ask the Monitoring Officer to draw this guidance to the attention of City Councillors and Parish Clerks.

Reason: In order to support Councillors who may be using or planning to use new technology to assist them to interact with their constituents.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date 07/06/2010
Specialist Implications Officer(s) <i>None.</i>			
Wards Affected: <i>List wards or tick box to indicate all</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>tick</i>

Background Papers:

There are no relevant background papers

Annex 1

Blogging Quick Guide – Standards for England