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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	28 AUGUST 2009
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) CLLRS HORTON (VICE-CHAIR), TAYLOR AND R WATSON (SUBSTITUTE) (CYC MEMBERS) MR DIXON AND MR HALL (INDEPENDENT MEMBERS) CLLRS CRAWFORD, MELLORS AND FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS WAUDBY AND HUDSON (CYC MEMBERS) MR WILSON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER)

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## **PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**

### **21. REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL ON OFFICER/MEMBER RELATIONS: REFERENCE BACK FROM COUNCIL**

Members considered a report which asked them to re-consider the draft Protocol on Officer / Member relations, in view of the decision made by Full Council on 9 July to refer the draft Protocol back for further amendments. The relevant Council minute was attached as Annex A to the report.

The referral back was due to an issue raised by a Member on the wording of paragraph 3.2 of the draft Protocol, namely the phrase '*acceptance of professional advice*'. It was felt that this could curtail the right of councillors to challenge the professional advice provided by officers.

Having considered the matter in the light of the Ethical Governance Health Check which had led to the revision of the Protocol in the first place, the Monitoring Officer suggested that the words '*acceptance of*' be replaced by '*respect for*'. This amendment had been incorporated in the revised draft Protocol attached as Annex B, together with some further changes to paragraph 9 intended to clarify some of the issues relating to Council Members' access to information and ensure that the Protocol accorded with legal requirements in this respect. Members were invited to endorse the revised Protocol and refer it to the next full Council meeting for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the revised draft Protocol, incorporating amendments to paragraphs 3.2 and 9, be approved.

**REASON:** In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and so that Members can be satisfied that the draft Protocol has now taken into account the matter raised at the last Council meeting and the need

to clarify issues in relation to Members' rights to access to information.

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.05 pm and finished at 4.40 pm].