

Meeting of: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: 16TH JUNE 2005

Report of: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CENTRAL SERVICES)

Reference: RCM/JEB

Title: BEHAVIOUR PROTOCOL

PUBLIC/EXEMPT ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update members with the latest position of developing a behavioural protocol.

RECOMMENDATION

That the position is noted and members' advice sought on how to proceed.

REPORT

At its last meeting, the Committee requested officers to draft a protocol that set out a minimum standard of behaviour that was expected of members (minute 22(i)(1) refers).

Following the meeting, contact was made with a number of other local authorities and with the Standards Board to see if there are any examples of good practice in place elsewhere.

Whilst a number of local authorities have replied, the response has been disappointing and no examples of good practice have been identified. In addition, the matter was raised at the latest round of Standards Board Roadshow and no authority present had a behaviour protocol or something similar in place. In almost every instance, Councils rely on the good chairmanship of their member meetings to instil good manners and behaviour and when necessary, take the necessary actions that their procedural rules permit.

As a consequence, it has not been possible for this meeting to draft a behavioural protocol based on best practice and members advice is sought on how to proceed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has prepared this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.