

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Protocol on Emails sent to all Councillors 17th March 2011

Report of the Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee of the views of the Standards Committee on a suggestion from a councillor that action be taken to limit the sending of emails by councillors to all other councillors.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- (1) That no action be taken

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 20th January 2011, the Standards Committee considered a report which requested it to consider, in the light of a complaint from a councillor, what action, if any should be taken to limit the sending of emails by councillors to all other councillors. A copy of the report is attached.
- 1.2 During the course of the Standards Committee's discussions, a consensus emerged that there was no need for further regulation. It was felt that emails sent to all councillors had caused very few problems in the full period of time in which electronic mail had been available at the Council.
- 1.3 The Standards Committee therefore resolved to recommend to this Committee that there was no need for further action.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the recommendation of the Standards Committee.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The matter was referred initially to the Standards Committee as the member body responsible for advising on standards of conduct. There has been no other consultation.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 Whilst the Committee is recommended to follow the recommendation of the Standards Committee, it would be open to it to accept any of the options set out in the original report.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The Committee is asked to consider the recommendation of the Standards Committee.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the Standards Committee's recommendation. Options 1 or 2 would involve minimal resource implications.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The initial report was prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as adviser to the Standards Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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