

Standards Committee – 2 October 2017

Social Media Training and Guidelines for Elected Members

Summary of report:

The report is to provide Members of the Committee with an update relating to recent training provided to elected members concerning use of Social Media and to confirm the council has already adopted Social Media Guidelines which are contained within the constitution at Part 5.21.

Background Papers

1. Previous report to Standards Committee - attached
2. Course Presentation -attached
3. Analysis from Course – to follow

Recommendation:

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To endorse the Monitoring Officer sending a copy of the Social Media Protocol for Councillors to all Councillors together with a copy of the presentation.

1.0 Background

1.1 Following the receipt of a number of complaints and general queries around Councillors use of social media in 2015 the council introduced a Social Media Training for Elected Members and refreshed the Social Media Protocol for Councillors. This is the second year that the Council has run this course, presented by Richard Bolton, CIPR Lead Media & Communications, and Tony Cox, Head of Legal Services. The course took place on the 1st September 2017 and was well supported with a third of all elected members attending the same. The course was well received based upon the feedback received and it is a course the council will present on an annual basis to provide all elected members with an opportunity to attend.

1.2 It became clear during the day that a some elected members were not aware of the current council social media protocol for councillors, attached to this report. The Monitoring Officer would therefore propose to circulate the protocol to all elected members together with a copy of the presentation slides from the training day.

2.0 Resource and legal considerations:

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The council has an obligation to uphold high standards in public office under the Localism Act 2011.

3.0 Performance and Risk Management issues:

The council has an obligation to uphold high standards in public office under the Localism Act 2011. The council does this through its adopted code of conduct and arrangements for reviewing complaints. It is important to maintain high standards in public office to reduce risk of legal non-compliance and breaches of governance. Part of managing risk is to keep updated in relation to potential changes in legislation and the standards regime.

4.0 Equality Implications:

None arising from this report.

5.0 Consultation:

5.1 There is no requirement to consult on this report.

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