



**EXTRACT of MINUTES of
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
24 NOVEMBER 2015**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor D M Sismey (joined the meeting at Agenda Item 10)
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Mrs H E Elliott
Councillors	Mrs B F Acevedo, A S Fluker, and Rev. A E J Shrimpton
Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member	Councillor B S Beale MBE
Substitute Members	Councillors R G Boyce MBE CC, M F L Durham, Miss M R Lewis and Miss S White

IN THE CHAIR : COUNCILLOR MRS H E ELLIOTT (VICE-CHAIRMAN)

608. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the agenda.

609. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J P F Archer, B E Harker, C A R MacKenzie and M R Pearlman.

In accordance with notice duly given Councillor M F L Durham was attending as a substitute for Councillor Harker, Councillor Miss S White as a substitute for Councillor Archer, Councillor R G Boyce as a substitute for Councillor Pearlman and Councillor Miss M R Lewis as a substitute for Councillor MacKenzie.

625 MEMBERS AND OFFICER COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Resources seeking Members' consideration of suggestions by the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee following examination of the Members and Officers Communication Protocol (attached as Appendix A to the report) and amend it accordingly.

It was noted that the O&S Committee had highlighted three main areas of improvement and these were summarised in the report.

Members discussed the protocol and a number of concerns were raised regarding its content. In particular the following points were raised:

- It was not clear how breaches of the protocol would be considered.
- The Press Office did not receive all communications from the press as stated on page 3 of the protocol.
- What was the process for Members to flag things up to the Press Office and at what point this should be done? In addition, how would these be responded to and Members kept in the loop?
- It was felt whole communications protocol needed to be considered rather than just media matters, including other factors such as the forthcoming District rebranding which may feed into it.
- The protocol should apply to both Members and Officers across the board and references within it should reflect this.

Members were advised that the code of conduct would deal with any breaches of protocol amounting to a breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

After further discussion, Councillor A S Fluker, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny, proposed that this matter be referred back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review in the light of the comments arising at this meeting. The Committee agreed that the document required further attention and consideration at a later date.

RESOLVED that consideration of the Member and Officer Communication Protocol be deferred for a review by Officers and also the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the light of the above comments, and referred back to this Committee at a future meeting.

There being no further items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:40pm.

**D M SISMEY
CHAIRMAN**