

COUNCIL PUBLICITY

Report of the Chief Solicitor

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To make arrangements for a guidance note to be prepared and circulated for the guidance of Members and officers on council publicity.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council has longstanding arrangements for giving guidance to Members and officers on the proper use of council publicity arrangements based on the Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (the Code).
- 2.2 Existing guidance on aspects of use of publicity is contained within various documents including the Code of Conduct for members and co-opted members, within the Employees' Code of conduct, the Guidance for Members in relation to the use of council facilities, and within the Protocol for use of member websites, at Part 5 of the Constitution.
- 2.3 The Department for Communities and Local Government has now consulted on proposals for amendment to the Code between 17th December 2008 and 12th March of this year. Draft proposals are awaited.
- 2.4 However, it is proposed that, pending re-issue of the Code in an amended form, the Chief Solicitor should prepare and issue a consolidated guidance note on council publicity.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to agree the proposal that the Chief Solicitor should prepare and issue a consolidated guidance note for Members and officers on council publicity.

4.0 Background Papers

- 4.1 The Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity issued 5 May 2006

4.2 Consultation paper on revision of the Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity DCLG website