

<b>WYFRA</b>	<b>FINANCE &amp; RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>1 FEBRUARY 2008</b>	<b>ITEM No</b>
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REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES  
(MONITORING OFFICER) AND CHIEF FINANCE  
OFFICER

PURPOSE OF REPORT: RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF A  
PROTOCOL GOVERNING THE USE OF  
RESOURCES BY MEMBERS OF THE  
AUTHORITY

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE (DRAFT) PROTOCOL ATTACHED TO  
THIS REPORT BE RECOMMENDED FOR  
ADOPTION BY THE AUTHORITY.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT DETAILS**

Exemption Category:

Contact Officer: M G Barnes, Director of Corporate Resources  
01274 655710  
G Maren, Chief Finance Officer  
01274 655711

Background Papers: SBE Case Review 2007, paragraph 6

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Standards Board for England Case Review 2007 examines the issues surrounding the difficulty of enforcement of the Code of Conduct relating to the use of resources in the absence of a local protocol dealing with the issue. The SBE concluded that by recommending that all local authorities should have protocols, which set out the authority's reasonable requirements for the use of resources. At its meeting on 19 October 2007 this Committee considered an interim report on the subject and instructed officers to draft proposals for further consideration.
- 1.2 A draft protocol dealing with the use of resources is attached. Members should note that the provision of resources to Members of this Authority is very limited compared to the resources provided to Members in their capacity as district councillors and in practice, other than telephony/internet/email devices provided to leading Members such as the Chair and Vice Chair, other computer equipment is not currently provided to Members. The Chair also has limited access to stationery and support services from the Committee and Administration Secretariat.
- 1.3 The Authority already has a separate Member allowances and expenses scheme (pursuant to the statutory provisions and it is also subject to an independent evaluation process) and there is a longstanding existing protocol for Member/Officer relations (see FRA Constitution).
- 1.4 In conclusion, in order to comply with the best practice recommendations of the SBE on the regulation of the use of resources and the enforcement of the Code of Conduct, Members are invited to consider the draft protocol and subject any amendments they may wish to make are invited to recommend its adoption by the Authority. FRA Standards Committee Members have already been consulted and support its adoption by the Authority.