



AGENDA ITEM: 6

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
29 MARCH 2016**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

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**SUBJECT: BLOGGING AND SOCIAL MEDIA/NETWORKING – GUIDANCE NOTE
FOR COUNCILLORS**

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider a Guidance Note for Councillors on Blogging and Social Media/Networking.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the 'Blogging and Social Media/Networking – Guidance Note for Councillors', attached at Appendix 1, be endorsed and circulated to all Members.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Social media is a general term for platforms/applications based on user participation and user-generated content. Some of the most popular are Facebook, Twitter and You Tube. With widespread use of social media and social networking sites, it is important that Members are given guidance on the use of social media and how its use could apply to the Members Code of Conduct.

3.2 The Guidance Note at Appendix 1 has been prepared having regard to previous guidance issued by Standards for England.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with the report. Promoting and maintaining high ethical Standards contributes to achievement of the Community Strategy.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The Guidance Note attached at Appendix 1 provides advice in relation to social media use and how it can relate to the Code of Conduct for Members. This will assist in enabling members to maintain compliance with the Code in their use of social media.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendix

Appendix 1 - Blogging and Social Media/Networking – Guidance Note for Councillors