

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**8 OCTOBER 2008**

### **MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Report from: Deborah Upton, Monitoring Officer

#### **Summary**

Members are requested to consider and approve the proposed media protocol set out in the attached appendix one.

#### **1.. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to bring forward for consideration a proposal for a media protocol for the Standards Committee to consider adopting.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Recent cases have attracted a significant amount of media interest, and the Chairman of the Standards Committee has requested that the monitoring officer bring forward a draft media protocol for members consideration.
- 2.2 Due to the local assessment regime, it is likely that the number of cases heard may increase at least initially, and these do attract media interest.
- 2.3 The proposed protocol is annexed to this report at Appendix 1. The draft criteria have been developed in consultation with the Council's Communications Section, having regard to the media protocol set out in the constitution.

#### **3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1 Adopting a media protocol will ensure that both complainants and elected members are aware of when press information will be released by the Council, and that its content will have been approved

either by the Monitoring Officer for the Council, or the Chairman for the Standards Committee.

**4. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Standards Committee consider and approve the media protocol set out in Appendix One of this report.