

# Updated Protocol on Member / Officer Relations

## Report of the Clerk

For further information about this report please contact Anthea Lowe, Clerk and Monitoring Officer on 01952 383219

### 1 Executive Summary

This report sets out amendments to Fire Authority's Protocol on Member / Officer Relations and seeks approval from the Authority for the adoption of the amended Protocol.

### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Note the report; and
- b) Agree that the amended Protocol on Member / Officer Relations, as attached at the Appendix to the report, be adopted

### 3 Background

The relationship between Members and officers is essential to the successful working of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority and its service, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. This relationship is characterised by mutual respect, informality and trust. Members and employees feel free to speak to one another openly and honestly.

The Protocol on Member / Officer Relations is designed to help Members and officers perform effectively by giving guidance on their respective roles and expectations, and on their relationship with each other. The Protocol also gives guidance on what actions should be taken, on the rare occasions when things go wrong.

## **4 Amendments to Protocol on Member / Officer Relations**

The Protocol on Member / Officer Relations was considered as part of the Governance Review workshops that were held in February and March 2025. This established that minor changes were needed to the existing Protocol to ensure that it was fit for purpose and provided clarity on the expected standards of behaviour and conduct between Members and Officers.

The amended Protocol is attached at the Appendix to the report, with deletions shown as struck through and additions shown in bold italics.

## **5 Conclusions**

The Authority is asked to consider and note the Protocol on Member / Officer Relations and agree the proposed amendments to the document.

## **6 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **7 Legal Comment**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **8 Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required.

## **9 Appendix**

Protocol on Member / Officer Relations

## **25 Background Papers**

There are no background papers associated with this report.