

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Member and Officer Working Update
Name of Committee:	Council
Date of Meeting:	6 December 2021
Report Director:	Chief Officer - Legal and Governance
Portfolio:	Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance
Ward Relevance:	All
Prior Consultation:	Leadership Team
Contact Officer:	Aftab Razzaq
Public or Private:	Public
Report Subject to Call-In:	No
Report En-Bloc:	No
Forward Plan:	No
Corporate Priorities:	This report relates to the following priority(ies): <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C) <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E) <input type="checkbox"/> Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O) Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 <input type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
(C) Climate (E) Economy (HC) Health and Communities (O) Organisation	
Summary:	This report seeks to address a new approach in respect of the working relationship between both members and officers.
Financial Implications:	None arising directly from this report
Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:	None arising directly from this report

Environmental Implications:	None arising directly from this report
Legal Implications:	None arising directly from this report
Equality and Diversity:	None arising directly from this report
Options:	Approve or reject the proposed recommendation
Recommendation:	Members note the contents of this report and refer this matter to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration to put forward a future recommendation to Full Council
Reasons for Recommendation:	To ensure the member and officer working protocol can be reviewed.

Council - 15 December 2021

Member and Officer Working Update

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance

Recommendation

Members note the contents of this report and refer this matter to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration to put forward a future recommendation to Full Council.

1. Introduction

1.1. The member and officer working relationship forms the foundation of service delivery of the Council. It is recognised that as the Council continues with its corporate objectives and transformational programme; the officer and member working protocols requires reviewing and overall development.

2. Officer & Member Working Relationship

2.1. At present the officer and member working relationship is largely governed by the protocol that is contained within the council constitution. This sets out various parameters and expectations between both parties. In addition to this there is the informal element such as the overall culture and long-standing relationships between officers and members. Although both of these elements provide a basic framework, it has not adequately addressed the concerns that are regularly raised by both members and officers.

2.2. In order for the Council to move forward it is important that there is a holistic approach in both a review of the present arrangements and how this can be developed further in supporting both members, officers, and the Council as a whole.

2.3. In the first instance this approach will comprise with workshops with officers and members. These will be held early next year, and there will be separate member and officer workshops, and will seek to collate feedback in respect of both the present working relationship, key areas of focus and proposals that should be considered within future arrangements.

2.4 The information from the workshops will be collated and thereafter form the basis of a scoping paper for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee. The expectation is that a task and finish group will be formed to provide conclusions to Scrutiny and thereafter a final recommendation for approval by Full Council.

3. 21st Century Councillor

3.1. In addition to the above there has been liaison with LGA in respect of the promotion of the principle of a 21st Century Councillor. This principle was developed through a study by Birmingham University and has been in place for a number of years. The background can be found at the following link:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/public-service-academy/about/twentyfirst-century-councillor.aspx>

3.2. The LGA has put forward a proposal whereby a session can be held for Councillors to understand this principle and importantly how it can be put into practice. It is envisaged that this session will be held early next year, and this will support the work and recommendation via the Scrutiny Committee.

4. Conclusion

4.1. As set out within this report the proposed recommendation seeks to address the requirement for both a review and a new approach in respect of the working relationship between both members and officers. This will ensure any present concerns are adequately addressed and importantly there is input from both members and officers in the formulation of a member and officer working protocol.

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Subject Matter: Member and Officer Working Update
Originating Department: Legal and Governance

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A