

Responses to Scrutiny Review Recommendations

Report to Overview Committee

Title of the review: Gedling Councillor Standard

Date review completed: 19 March 2018

Date Presented to Cabinet: 3 May 2018

Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Clarke

Review group members: Councillors Adams, Barnfather, Paling, Parr

Officer supporting the review: Lyndsey Parnell

Response due to the Overview Committee (28 days): 23 June 2018

Six month update to Overview Committee: 21st January 2019

Recommendation 1

That the job description provided as part of the Members Induction Pack be provided to prospective candidates and/or form part of our information online regarding how to become a Councillor.

Recommendation Accepted



The current version of the job description is being reviewed to ensure that it is up to date and officers do plan to issue it to prospective candidates as soon as they become nominated.

It is also important to note that political parties have a responsibility to brief their candidates about the realities of life as a councillor as part of the selection process.

6 month update – Job description has been reviewed to ensure that it is up to date and will be issued to prospective candidates as soon as they become nominated.

Draft attached at Appendix 2A.

Recommendation 3

That Group Leaders be invited to address Officers at a staff briefing to increase understanding of the role of Elected Members.

Recommendation Accepted



The recommendation is supported in principle and arrangements will be made for Group Leaders to address officers at staff briefings after the May 2019 elections.

6 month update – this action is due to be delivered after the May 2019 election.

Recommendation 4

That the Member/Officer relationship be reviewed to consider how to better communicate with and respond to Members.

Recommendation Accepted



In order to address any issues relating to the lack of response in a timely fashion (or at all) to councillor enquiries, a Councillor enquiries/casework system has been launched. This system will enable Councillor correspondence to be monitored by Democratic Services.

In addition, Officers plan to review the Constitution and as part of that work will review the Member/Officer Protocol with reference to LGA guidance.

6 month update – the Councillor Enquires system is live and responses to enquiries can now be monitored by Democratic services on a regular basis.
The review of the Constitution is in progress and the Member/Officer protocol will be reviewed in due course as part of that piece of work.