

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

1. Councillor A

“There are two matters I wish to raise about this Protocol and for consideration.

First, as a fairly new District Councillor (May 2012), I have found it difficult to get to know some of the officers with whom I am required to work with as an elected member.

I have been conscious that, on some occasions, officers may not have been aware of my role. I think that the Protocol could usefully give advice that staff should engage with new members on a positive basis. Managers should also explain to their staff the importance of a friendly introduction. Equally, advice to new Councillors to introduce themselves to staff with whom they come into contact would also be useful, including the need to wear appropriate identification at all times. No one at any level should be exempt from what I consider is good business practice.

My second point is about e-mails. A wide range of salutations and styles seem to be used when dealing with Councillors through this medium. In my experience, these range from the familiar to the very formal or even rather curt. I think some standards should be laid down in the Protocol to give guidance for the future. I think the fact that Councillors are elected as such should always be acknowledged.

I have also received various out of office responses which on occasions does not reflect the standard I would expect. On a positive note I appreciate the opportunity to raise these comments which are written in the spirit to improve communication for both parties.”

2. Other Representations

If any further comments are received, these will be tabled at the meeting or circulated in advance.