

Item No. 6.4.	Classification: Open	Date: May 20 2009	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Council Protocol	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That council assembly consider and approve this protocol for inclusion in the protocol section of the constitution. That council assembly agree that any future changes to this protocol be agreed by the monitoring officer, after consultation with chairs and vice-chairs of community councils, and is noted as an exception in article 1.5(b) of the constitution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 The community council's chairs and vice chairs have discussed improving the understanding of members and officers roles and responsibilities. Officers agreed to draft a new protocol that would provide clarity around the functions and relationships between members, officers and the community.
- 3 A draft protocol was presented and discussed at a further chairs meeting and a number of changes were suggested.
- 4 The revised document was considered by Standards Committee on March 25 2009 and a number of additional comments were made. The Constitutional Steering Panel considered the protocol on April 20 2009 and May 5 2009.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5 A widespread view exists amongst members and officers that the role and function of community council meetings should be enhanced to better address the needs of the local communities. Part of the approach has been to realign Area Management Services and Legal & Democratic Services, both of whom have integral roles in the operation of community councils, to deliver a more coherent and joined-up service. Positive work is in hand regarding the new departmental arrangements and an understanding of the bigger longer term picture as well as the more immediate changes that can be made.

Resource implications

- 6 There are no resource implications relating to this report.

Legal implications

- 7 There are no specific legal implications relating to this report. Any issues relating to constitutional changes will be addressed as part of the constitutional review process.

Community impact statement

- 8 This report has no immediate impact on the community. The proposed protocol should enhance community engagement through clarity of roles.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Standard Committee report 25 March	Southwark Town Hall & Website	Graham Love 020 7525 0617

APPENDICES

No.	Item
A.	Community Council Protocol

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	
Report Author	Graham Love, Head of Democratic Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	May 8 2009	
Key Decision?	No	
Consultation with other officers / directorates / executive member		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Incorporated in report
Finance Director	No	No
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	May 8 2009	