

22 PROTOCOL ON THE PRODUCTION OF COUNCILLOR NEWSLETTERS

Paragraph 7(b) of the Members' Code of Conduct makes clear that Members must not use Council resources improperly for political purposes. Guidance issued by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales indicates that an authority may authorise the use of its resources and facilities for some political purposes.

At its meeting on 3 September 2012 the Council's Standards Committee considered a report on the Use of Council Resources for the Production and Distribution of Councillor Newsletters. The recommendation of the Standards Committee was that Members should be free to use the computers available in Members' Services and in the group rooms for the purposes of designing and setting up newsletters to their constituents. This was considered at the County Council meeting on the 25 October 2012. At that meeting it was decided that Members cannot use any Flintshire I.T. software to produce Councillor newsletters. Any use of Council resources for the production of newsletters would therefore be a breach of paragraph 7(b) of the Members' Code of Conduct.