



meeting Administration Committee

date 19 January 2005

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES

MEMBERS' LEAFLETS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider issues relating to the supply and distribution of Members' Leaflets.

2. Background

- 2.1 Each County Councillor is able to have, once every four years, a supply of up to 5,000 A5 colour leaflets, which are produced by the Council at a cost of £395 per Councillor, includes contact details for her/himself and the local MP, details of local and County Council services, and contact details for the County Council. They are for use within communities to publicise the identity of the local councillor.
- 2.2 To comply with the various constraints relating to local authority publicity and the Code of Conduct, the only political reference permitted within the leaflets is a description of the local councillor's political party or other status.
- 2.3 All councillors have been asked previously whether they wished to have leaflets produced and I can inform Committee that six leaflets have been printed and passed to the respective local councillors and that five others have been drafted and are awaiting final approval before printing.
- 2.4 As Committee knows, the leaflets may not be used for political campaigning and/or election purposes. The next County Council Election is four months away. It therefore seems inappropriate to continue to produce leaflets, bearing in mind both the proximity of the elections and the fact that they may not be used by local councillor during the election period (approximately six weeks up to the date of the election, ie from mid- march onwards).

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Committee agree that production of the leaflets should cease until after the 2005 County Council elections.

**PATRICIA HOLT-MURPHY
HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES**

Legal Services' Comments (KK)

The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to determine the level and nature of support services for Members of the County Council. The proposal in this report is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

Director of Resources Financial Comments (R/MB)

The cost of the leaflets is contained within the budget for Members Services.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

Electoral Divisions Affected