

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: ELECTED MEMBERS' CORRESPONDENCE LETTERHEADS: POLITICAL DESCRIPTION
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 17 August 2007	Ref: JAF/IL	

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 The report submits recommendations regarding the format of elected members' correspondence letterheads and the use of party political descriptions.

2. **Background**

2.1 It has, hitherto, been the practice of the Council to include in the correspondence letterheads of elected members, details of the ward represented but no details of the member's party political affiliation. The justification for this was that, following election, the member is a representative of the whole ward irrespective of party political affiliation.

2.2 With the introduction of multi-member wards, however, there are now either three or four elected members for each ward – and it is open to any constituent to decide which member to approach on any particular issue. There will, no doubt, be a number of factors which influence such decisions, but it has to be anticipated that a material factor in many cases will be party political affiliation – or, indeed, the absence of party political affiliation.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 Having regard to the change in circumstances brought about by the introduction of multi-member wards, it is proposed that the current practice be altered to include in correspondence letterheads elected members' party political affiliation or, in the case of members elected without party political affiliation, the description "Independent" except in any instance in which an individual member indicates that he or she does not wish that to be done.

4. **Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee give consideration to the foregoing proposal.

J. O. Fleming
 Head of Central Services

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.