

Agenda Item No: 7
Report To: THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date: 11TH MAY 2005



Report Title: "CODE FOR THE FUTURE"
**CONSULTATION ON GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF
THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Report Author: HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Summary:	TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO AGREE A PROPOSED RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATION PAPER RELATING TO A REVIEW OF THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
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Key Decision: NO
Affected Wards: ALL

Recommendations: **That the Standards Committee respond to the Questionnaire in accordance with the recommendations as set out in column 4 of Appendix 4.**

Policy Overview: TO ENSURE THAT THE CODE OF CONDUCT CONTINUES TO HAVE INTEGRITY, STANDING AND RELEVANCE TO MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC

Background Papers: THE STANDARDS BOARD CONSULTATION PAPER.
THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT.

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OF CONDUCT**

1. The Model Code of Conduct was introduced in November 2001, by virtue of the Local Government Act 2000 and approved by the Borough Council in May 2002 (a copy of the Code is attached at Appendix 1 for ease of reference for Members of the Standards Committee). The purpose of the Code is to set out a framework for an acceptable standard of conduct by Members in local government.
2. The Standards Board for England (SBE) was established to act as an independent body to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Members in local Government. Part of the remit of the SBE is to issue Guidance on the Code of Conduct.
3. The Government has requested the SBE to carry out a review of the Code of Conduct to consider the effectiveness of the Code and to explore ways in which it could be improved or clarified.
4. Consequently, the SBE are consulting various parties and have invited The Council's Standards Committee to respond to a Questionnaire (attached hereto at Appendix 2). The SBE have also prepared a Consultation Paper that sets out in detail the issues raised by the Questionnaire (copy available in the Members Room and also online at www.standardsboard.co.uk/codereview/ , but is attached for Members of The Standards Committee at Appendix 3)
5. For Members ease of reference, I have set out a précis of the Questions raised in the Questionnaire, together with a Commentary on the issues and suggested recommendations (see Appendix 4).
6. Following the completion of the consultation, the SBE will make recommendations for consideration by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

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