
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9 March 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

A REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Summary

1. This report sets out the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct and a response to those proposals for consideration by the Standards Committee.

Background

2. The Standards Board for England and the Department for Communities and Local Government have been considering amending the Model Code since 2005. On 27 May 2005 the Standards Committee considered a report on the then proposed amendments and submitted a formal response as part of an initial consultation exercise.
3. The Local Government White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities issued in October 2006 indicated the Government's proposals to put in place a clearer, simpler and more proportionate Model Code of Conduct, which would include changes to the rules on personal and prejudicial interests. The proposed amendments have now been circulated for consultation and are contained at Annex 1 to this report, together with a suggested response.
4. It is noted that responses to the consultation are required by 9 March 2007 as it is anticipated that Councils will be expected to adopt the revised Model Code of Conduct for the next municipal year 2007/08.

Consultation

5. A copy of the proposed amendments have been circulated to Parish Councils and to the political groups. The Parish Councils and political groups have been asked to submit any comments through their Standards Committee representatives.

Options

6. Members are asked to consider the collated comments at Annex 1 and agree or amend as appropriate.

Analysis

7. The analysis of the responses is contained in the Annex attached.

Corporate Priorities

8. Compliance with the Model Code of Conduct forms part of the corporate governance framework and contributes to the corporate priority of improving leadership at all level to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation.

Implications

9. There are no specific Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property or other implications of the amendments to the Code of Conduct. However, legal and constitutional procedures will need to be followed to ensure the amendments are implemented and compliance monitored.

Risk Management

10. A robust Code of Conduct will assist in reducing any risk of a successful complaint against Members in respect of their conduct.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to consider the Annex attached and amend or approve as appropriate for submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Reason: To ensure the views of members in the York District on the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct are forwarded to the Government within the requisite timescale.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 26 February 2007

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex 1 – Proposed Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct