

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16TH AUGUST 2007

COUNCIL DECISIONS - NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor R. D. Smith
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the decisions made by the Council in relation to the new Code of Conduct for Members and the Appointment of Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

New Code of Conduct

- 3.1 At its meeting on 14th June 2007 the Standards Committee made a number of recommendations to the Council in relation to the new Code of Conduct for Members.
- 3.2 All of the recommendations put forward by the Committee were approved by the Council at its meeting on 18th July 2007 and it was duly resolved:
- (a) that, subject to the amendments set out in (b) below, the Model Code of Conduct be adopted with effect from 19th July 2007; and
- (b) that the following local amendments be made to the Code:
- (i) (in order to ensure that officers were not compromised or were not seen to be compromised), an extra clause be added to form Paragraph 3(e), as follows:

“No Member shall provide, or offer to provide, a reference for any candidate for employment or promotion with the Authority”;

- (ii) (to cut out the possibility of a loophole), Paragraph 6 be re-drafted to read as follows:

“(b) must not, when using or authorising the use of resources of, or under the control of, the Authority”

- (iii) the drafting of the Model requires Members to have regard only to the advice of the Section 151 Officer or the Monitoring Officer, but does not require Members to have regard to the advice of other professional officers such as Planning Officers) therefore, Paragraph 7 be re-drafted to read as follows:

“When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided by your Authority’s officers, and in particular by (i) your Authority’s Chief Finance Officer; (ii) your Authority’s Monitoring Officer; or (iii) the Chief Legal Officer”; and

- (iv) (to ensure openness and transparency at all times, and to gain the confidence of the public in the robustness of decision-making) that the need to declare personal and prejudicial interests be applied to all meetings, including informal meetings, by revising the wording of Paragraph 1(4) of Paragraphs 9 to 12 to insert the following additional clause:

“(d) Any other meeting at which you are conducting the business of your Authority or are acting, claiming to act, or giving the impression that you are acting as a representative of your Authority”.

Appointment of Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee

3.3 At its meeting on the 18th July 2007 the Council considered a report on the appointment of a Parish Member and a substitute Parish Member on the Standards Committee. It was resolved:

- (a) that Mr J. Cypher be appointed to serve as the Parish Member on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the 2007/08 Municipal Year; and
- (b) that Mr I. Hodgetts be appointed to serve as the substitute Parish Member on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications directly related to this report.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 This report does not directly link to the Council's objectives and priorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There is no risk, either negative or positive, directly associated with this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no customer implications directly associated with this report.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues - None
Personnel Implications - None
Governance/Performance Management - None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - None
Policy - None
Environmental - None

11. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No

Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	No
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

12. APPENDICES

None.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 14th June 2007.

Report to the Council on 18th July 2007.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th July 2007.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Debbie Parker-Jones
E Mail: d.parkerjones@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881411