

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th June 2007

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Anthony Blagg
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton – Legal and Democratic Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report deals with the new Code of Conduct for Councillors and co-opted members of Bromsgrove District Council. A copy of the Code and the accompanying guidance is attached to this report for information.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members note the new Code of Conduct and guidance, and make recommendations to the Council in respect of training.
- 2.2 That it be further recommended to the Council that the Model Code of Conduct be adopted.

BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the Local Government Act 2000 it is the duty of every authority to pass a resolution adopting a Code of Conduct. On the 6th November 2001 a Model Code of Conduct was issued by the Secretary of State and it contained mandatory provisions which Council's were required to adopt. Bromsgrove District Council adopted its current Code of Conduct in accordance with these provisions setting out the rules governing the behaviour of its members. All elected, co opted and independent members of local authorities including parish councils are governed by the code.
- 3.2 In early 2000 the Department for Communities and Local Government consulted on a revised code of conduct and the Council responded with comments and recommendations.

- 3.3 The Standards Committee considered the draft Code and made comments in respect of various provisions as part of the consultation process to the Standards Board of England.
- 3.4 The new model Code of Conduct for members was subsequently issued by the Government on 4th April 2007.
- 3.5 Each code must include the provisions of the model code of conduct approved by parliament. Authorities can choose to add their own local rules if they wish.
- 3.6 Authorities have until 1st October 2007 to adopt the new code. After the 1st October members of authorities who have not adopted the Code of Conduct 2007 will automatically be covered by it. The Code of Conduct 2001 will continue to apply until the Local Authority adopts the Code of Conduct 2007 or until the 1st October 2007, whichever is the sooner.
- 3.7 The Code of Conduct covers areas of individual behaviour such as members not abusing their position or not misusing their authority's resources. There are rules governing the disclosure of interest and the withdrawal from meetings where members have relevant interests.
- 3.8 The Council will be asked to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct at the meeting of the Full Council in July 2007.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None other than to advise that as a Council we are under a legal duty to Adopt and follow the new Code of Conduct by 1st October 2007.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 Generally the Code of Conduct would impact on the priorities of Customer Service, Reputation and Performance, falling under the general heading of Council Objective Two i.e. Improvement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Although there is no risk directly associated with this report, it could be said that adoption of the Code ahead of the October deadline, would enable the Council to educate members with regard to the changes, early in this municipal year.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no customer implications directly relating to this report.

9. 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
Equalities and Diversity	None

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Please include the following table and indicate 'Yes' or 'No' as appropriate. Delete the words in italics.

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service <i>(i.e. your own HoS)</i>	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes – referred to above
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. APPENDICES

Model Code of Conduct and Guidelines

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/a

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Debbie Warren

E Mail: d.warren@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Tel: (01527) 881397