

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. The Council is required, under the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 to adopt the Revised Code of Conduct by Resolution of the Council on or before the 1st October 2007. Where an authority fails to adopt the revised Code by that date, the mandatory provisions of the revised Code apply, until the authority adopts it.
2. The Committee has considered the revised Code of Conduct. The report on the Code of Conduct which the Committee considered is attached (in a slightly amended form). It analyses the new Code and identifies practical issues. The draft recommendations at the end of the report have been amended so that they reflect the Committee's views. They are thus the Committee's recommendations to Council.
3. Members will not have to give a new undertaking to observe the revised Code of Conduct, provided that they have previously given an undertaking to observe the old Code.
4. The new Code will mean consequential changes to the present supporting Protocols on standards issues (such as planning, member/Officer relations and the use of resources. The Committee has this in hand, and intends to bring proposals to Council in the Autumn.
5. The Council is recommended to pass a resolution adopting the revised Code of Conduct and also resolve to adopt the additions to the Revised Code of Conduct as set out in the report to the Standards Committee with effect from 27th July 2007.
6. Members may wish to know that the Committee is recommending to Town and Parish Councils in the County that they should adopt the Code in a similar form (without the changes that apply specifically to a unitary Authority).

The Standards Committee recommends to Council that:

A resolution be passed adopting the revised Code of Conduct and also resolving to adopt the additions to the Revised Code of Conduct as set out in the report to the Standards Committee with effect from 27th July, 2007.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The report of the Standards Committee dated 7th July 2007 (Appendix 1) together with Appendices 2, 3, 4, and 5.