

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND

Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. To seek the views of the committee regarding the consultation issued on the 3rd January 2008 by the Department for Communities and Local Government on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of local authority members in England with regard to local assessments.

Background

2. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduces the framework for significant changes to the process of handling standards allegations against members of local authorities. These changes include a devolution of the handling of such allegations from the Standards Board for England to individual local authorities standards committees. The Department for Communities and Local Government is now consulting on a number of issues relating to the implementation of these changes. The consultation seeks the views of specific proposals set out in the consultation document attached at Appendix 1 by 15th February 2008.
3. The Department's intentions are to implement the proposed changes within the consultation from the 1st April 2008. Also attached is a copy of the proposed response to the consultation from Bevan Brittan for the committee's consideration and any other matters for consideration that the committee may wish to make in respect of the consultation document.

Recommendations

THAT

- (a) **the views of the committee are sought with regard to the proposed orders and regulations consultation**
- (b) **the committee considers the response from Bevan Brittan to the consultation as part of that process**
- (c) **such comments to form the response from the standards committee to the Department for Communities and Local Government**

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation document

Appendix 2 – Proposed response to consultation document by Bevan Brittan

Background Papers

None