

**ADOPTION OF NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Elaine Woodburn, Leader  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Martin Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager

**Summary and Recommendation:** To consider a recommendation from the Standards Committee that the Model Code of Conduct issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as set out in the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (“the Code”) be adopted as the Code of Conduct which is expected of Members of the Council, together with a preamble incorporating the ten general principles governing the conduct of members, in place of its existing Code.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2007 considered the new Model Code of Conduct for Local Authorities contained in Statutory Instrument 2007/1159. All local authorities are required to adopt the Model Code as their Code by 2 October 2007.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The report to the Standards Committee which explains the background and detailed provisions of the new Code is attached to this report (Appendix “B”).

2.2 Local authorities are being recommended to include the 10 general principles governing the conduct of members as a non-enforceable preamble to the Code. These are included in the Code which the Council is being recommended to adopt (Appendix “A”)

2.3 Training on the new Code has been arranged for the afternoon of the Council meeting, commencing at **4.00 pm in the Bainbridge Room**. The Induction Programme for new Councillors has also included a module explaining the provisions of the new Code. A copy of the Standards Board’s guidance has been circulated to all Councillors.

### **3 REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS**

3.1 In accepting office as an elected Member, Councillors undertake to observe the Code as to the conduct which is expected of Members of the Council, and that undertaking will apply to the new Code. However the Registration of Interests form will change to reflect the changes to personal interests in the new Code and Members are asked to ensure that their Register of Interests is renewed in compliance with the Code. A revised Registration of Interests form has been circulated to all Councillors and Members are asked to complete and return this to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days, i.e. by 31 July 2007.

### **4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

4.1 None of this report

### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

5.1 None of this report

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix "A" – New Model Code  
Appendix "B" – Report to Standards Committee

#### **List of Background Documents:**

Local Government Act 2000  
Existing Code of Conduct

#### **List of Consultees:**

Chief Executive

### **CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None