

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2007

An Open Item	
Responsible Officer:	Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer	C S Newlands Ext. 2715
Appendices	None

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the consultation paper proposing a revised Code of Conduct for Members

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Monitoring Officer responds formally to the consultation paper on the proposed new Code of Conduct for Members.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Government has now published the enclosed consultation paper which seeks views on a draft of a proposed new model code of conduct for local authority members
- 3.2 The Local Government White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, published in October 2006 announced the Government's intention to put in place a clearer, simpler and more proportionate code of conduct for members of local authorities, which would include changes to the rules on personal and prejudicial interests. This followed the discussion paper *Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future* in December 2005, which included the Government's response to the recommendations of the Standards Board for England for amendments to the model code of conduct for Members.
- 3.3 The Government is also proposing to combine the current four individual codes into one consolidate code. The four model codes are the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(England) Order 2001, the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001, the National Park and Broads Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(England) Order 2001 and the Police Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.
- 3.4 The consultation paper provides an explanatory commentary on the proposals and invites views on them. A draft of the proposed new model code is at Annex A to the paper and particular questions are listed separately at Annex B to the paper

3.5 Copies of the consultation paper have been sent to all principal local authorities, parish councils and other organisations and individuals who have a particular interest in these issues.

Legal Implications

It is a statutory requirement that this Council signs up to the Code of Conduct and any revised Code will need to go before full Council.

Consultees:

Chief Executive

Background papers:

Communities and Local Government paper "Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members."

The Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003

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