

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2007

The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007
(Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1159)

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisational Theme
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Providing Community Leadership
KEY PRIORITY:	Local Democracy
CABINET MEMBER:	To be appointed
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caroline Newlands
APPENDICES	The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To adopt the revised Code of Conduct that was laid before Parliament on 4th April 2007 and came into force on 3rd May 2007.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to DECIDE:

The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (attached as appendix 1 to this report) be adopted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000 required local authorities to adopt a Code of Conduct which incorporated the mandatory provisions of the Model Code. The Model Code was designed for authorities who operate Executive arrangements and the Government decided that all of its provisions were mandatory.
- 3.2. The Council, at its meeting held on 27th February 2002 adopted the Model Code of Conduct.
- 3.3. 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.

- 3.4. The Council's Ethics and Standards Committee, at its 14th February 2007 meeting considered the Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authorities published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. and the Monitoring Officer reported the Committee's comments.
- 3.5 Training will be given to *all* members on Tuesday 29th May 2007 when the full details will be explained. Training has already been carried out for all new District and Parish Councillors.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The authority will be providing 'in house' training sessions for district and parish councillors. These sessions will be conducted by the Monitoring Officer.

5 LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 revokes and replaces, with amendments the following Orders-

The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2001
The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001

- 6.2. The Order prescribes the Model Code of Conduct (The Code) to apply to members (whether elected, appointed or co-opted members) of relevant authorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1. The provision of training for Members will help to ensure that Members comply with the provisions of the new Code.

8. CONCLUSION

The adoption of the The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 is a mandatory requirement. The revisions contained within the code have been made with a view to it being a clearer, more simple and proportionate.

9. CONSULTEES

CMT
Cabinet

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Local Government Act 2000
The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2001
The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001
Standards of Conduct in English Local Government The
Future, December 2005,
The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007

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