

Meeting of the Council – 1st December, 2008

Report of the Standards Committee

Code of Conduct for Employees

Purpose of Report

1. To consider amendments to the Code of Conduct for Employees.

Background

2. In the mid 1990's, the Council adopted the national Code of Conduct for Employees. Since then the Code has been largely unchanged and in recent years there have been a number of promises by the Government to introduce a new Code. The Department for Communities and Local Government has recently issued a consultation document on Codes of Conduct for local authority Members and Employees. The Standards Committee has authorised the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, to prepare and submit a response to the consultation document to comply with the deadline of 24th December, 2008. A further report will be submitted to the Standards Committee on the outcome of the consultation and any subsequent amendments to the national Code.
3. As an interim measure, pending the publication of a new national Code, officers have reviewed the existing Employees Code of Conduct particularly to clarify the arrangements for declarations of interest by officers.
4. At its meeting on 15th October, 2008, the Standards Committee considered and endorsed the revised Code as set out in Appendix 1. As the Code is a part of the Constitution, the amended Code requires the approval of the Council.

Finance

5. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Law

6. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its various statutory functions.

Equality Impact

- 7. Paragraph 17 of the Code refers to equality and diversity and there are no particular issues arising from this report with regard to children and young persons.

Recommendation

- 8. That the revised Code of Conduct for Employees, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved and adopted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bishop of Dudley', written in a cursive style.

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Bishop of Dudley
Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee