

Meeting of the Council – 24th July, 2006

Report of the Standards Committee

Annual Report – Members' Code of Conduct

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the Annual Report on the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Background

2. At its meeting on the 22nd June 2006, the Standards Committee considered and approved the Annual Report on the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct submitted by the Monitoring Officer (see Appendix 1 attached).
3. Paragraph 4 of the Annual Report refers to comments that were awaited from the Audit Commission, but at the date of the meeting of the Standards Committee the Corporate Assessment report of the Council had not been published. The Standards Committee agreed, therefore, that this issue would be dealt with in a separate report to a future meeting.

Finance

4. Any financial implications arising from the promotion and maintenance of high ethical standards are met from within existing budgets.

Law

5. The relevant provisions regarding the Members' Code of Conduct are contained in Sections 49 – 52 of the Local Government Act 2000, and Regulations made by the Secretary of State.
6. The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that both the Standards Committee and he have sufficient resources to undertake the Council's statutory functions.

Equality Impact

7. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. It is a specific requirement of the Code of Conduct that members promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person.
8. There are no particular issues arising from this report with regard to children and young persons.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Council approve the Annual Report on the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct, and the action points set out in paragraphs 21 – 23.



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The Right Reverend David Walker.
Chairman of the Standards Committee