

Appendix 1

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Chairman of the Standards Committee has agreed to admit the following item of urgent business to allow the Committee to consider a revised Code of Conduct for Members in time for adoption at Annual Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall considering a consultation on a revised Code of Conduct at the last meeting of this Committee. A response on behalf of the Council was submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government on 8 March 2007.
- 2.2 The government has today, 4 April 2007, tabled a revised Code of Conduct before Parliament. This will be circulated under separate cover as soon as it is available.

3 THE NEW CODE

- 3.1 The Code comes into force on 3 May 2007 and the Standards Board for England has advised:-

“To facilitate implementation, ensure consistency across authorities and assist members to understand the revised Code, we strongly recommend councils adopt the revised Code at their first opportunity and without amendment. This will give certainty to members and the public as to what standards are expected, ensure consistency throughout England, and minimise the legal risk of your authority adopting additional provisions which are unenforceable. However, we also recommend that you consider adopting the ten General Principles as a non-enforceable preamble or annex to your Code to remind members and the public of the principles underlying the Code.”

- 3.2 Officers have not yet had the opportunity to consider the new Code in detail and the Monitoring Officer will report verbally at the meeting.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council must adopt the new Code within six months from 3 May 2007.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All Parish Councils must adopt a new Code within six months from 3 May 2007.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Council consider a revised Code of Conduct for Members.

John Honey

Corporate Director (Internal Services)

Background Papers:-

None

For further information please contact John Honey on:-

Tel:- 01702 318004

E-Mail:- john.honey@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.