

**A CODE FOR THE FUTURE – CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE REVIEW
OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS
(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Reproduced as an appendix to this report is a paper by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer, which contains suggested responses to questions raised by a Consultation Paper published by the Standards Board for England as part of their review of the effectiveness of the Code of Conduct. The deadline for responses to the Consultation Paper is 17th June 2005.
- 1.2. The report was tabled at the meeting of the Committee in March but Members were of the view that because the nature of the subject matter concerned all District Councillors they too should be given the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Paper and the proposed responses prior to its consideration by the Standards Committee. At the same time, the Committee requested the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer to canvass Members' interest in attending a workshop or similar event to discuss possible changes to the Code.
- 1.3 This meeting of the Committee was convened especially to consider the report in the light of any responses received from Members.

2. CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS

- 2.1 In accordance with the Committee's instructions, the Monitoring Officer canvassed Members of the District Council for their views. Of the four replies received (from a total membership of 52 Councillors) two Members expressed an interest in participating in a workshop event but had no separate comment to make; one Member recorded his satisfaction with the draft responses to the Board but did not wish to attend a workshop and lastly and whilst not wishing to attend any separate session one Member commented as follows

“there should be some form of cost sanction against complainants who raise matters that are proved to be either false or unwarranted. Each complainant should be made to prove he/she has discussed the matter with the potential offender and/or Officers of the Council. If this were the case, many complaints would go away”.

- 2.2 In view of the lack of interest, and after consultation with the then Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, it was agreed not to proceed with the workshop arrangements.

3. RESPONSE TO THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

- 3.1 Accordingly, the report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer is re-submitted to the Committee for the purpose of concluding a response to the Consultation Paper on behalf of the District Council, by 17th June 2005.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In the light of the summary of the Board's Consultation Paper appended hereto, the Committee is

RECOMMENDED

to approve the suggested responses to the Consultation Paper on behalf of the District Council.

Background Paper

Standards Board for England Consultation Paper on the review of the Code of Conduct for Members – January 2005.

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