

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8 FEBRUARY 2007

CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION

Report from: Deborah Upton, Assistant Director, Legal, Contract and Property Services

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report attaches the newly published government consultation on the revised Code of Conduct. This is attached as Appendix A. The Standards Committee is responsible for ensuring the Council and its members meet the high standards of probity and conduct required by legislation and expected by residents in Medway's area.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider its contribution to the consultation exercise as part of the Council's response.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2005, the Standards Board for England undertook a consultation review on the Code of Conduct. The Council submitted a response and the government published its response in 2006.
- 3.2 The government's proposals were subject of a paper to this committee in 2006 but, briefly, proposed a locally standards regime and revisions to the code to allow, amongst other things, greater ward representation by members.
- 3.3 This was supplemented by the White Paper issued in October 2006 and the amendment to primary legislation to enact the government's proposals were contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill 2006 issued on 12 December.
- 3.4 The government issued a consultation on the Code of Conduct on 22 January. The deadline for responses is 9 March which only allows for consideration by this committee at this meeting.
- 3.5 The Monitoring Officer has provided a summary of the main implications and changes to the Code, attached at Appendix B.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Legal implications will be provided at the meeting.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications

Background Documents

1. Covering Letter from Communities and Local Government
2. Consultation Document

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