

To Chief Executives of:
County Councils and District Councils
London Borough Councils
The Greater London Authority
National Park Authorities
The Broads Authority

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 3 January 2008

The Clerk:
City of London
Council of the Isle of Scilly
Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities
Fire and Civil Defence Authorities
Police Authorities in England and Wales
Joint Waste Disposal Authorities in England

The Clerk:
Parish and Town Councils in England

Dear Colleague,

CONSULTATION ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND

I am writing to inform you that the Government has today published the enclosed consultation paper which seeks views on the detailed arrangements for putting into effect the orders and regulations to provide a revised more locally-based ethical regime for the conduct of local councillors in England.

Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the Local Government Act 2000 to provide for a revised ethical conduct regime for local government based on the principle of proportionate decision-making on conduct issues by local authorities. In order to implement the revised regime, we now need to put in place detailed arrangements to allow standards committees and the Standards Board to undertake their new roles. These arrangements need to cover:

- The operation of standards committees' powers to make initial assessments of misconduct allegations.
- The operation of other functions by standards committees and the Adjudication Panel in issuing penalties and sanctions.
- The operation of the Standards Board's revised strategic role to provide supervision, support and guidance for the regime.
- Other matters, such as the rules on the granting of dispensations, the granting of exemptions of posts from political restrictions and the pay of local authority political assistants.

The paper sets out for each of these issues, the specific purpose of the provisions and the proposals for how the rules should operate via appropriate regulations and orders under the Local Government Act 2000. Particular questions on which we would welcome comments are also summarised at Annex A to the paper.

We wish to make arrangements for these provisions to come into effect in Spring 2008, and are therefore seeking views on how the detailed rules should work in practice. Copies of the consultation paper are being sent to all principal local authorities, parish councils and other organisations and individuals who have a particular interest in these issues. If you wish to comment, please send responses either by post to:

William Tandoh
Department for Communities and Local Government
Local Democracy and Empowerment Directorate
Local Governance Division
5/G10 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

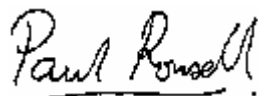
Or by e-mail to: william.tandoh@communities.gsi.gov.uk

by **Friday 15 February 2008**.

Any queries you may have on this letter or the enclosed paper should be directed to either:

Karl Holden (tel: 020 7944 5962; karl.holden@communities.gsi.gov.uk)
or William Tandoh (tel: 020 7944 8765; william.tandoh@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paul Rowsell