

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

31 JANUARY 2008

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

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rodney Chambers

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Business Support

Report from: Deborah Upton, Monitoring Officer

Author: Deborah Upton, Monitoring Officer

Summary

Members are asked to consider a consultation document issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on proposed Regulations to put into effect detailed arrangements for the new local filter regime whereby allegations regarding member conduct will be made directly to local Standards Committees. The published guidance focuses on five areas:

- The role and make-up of Standards Committees
- Local Assessment and how it will operate
- Local Investigations
- Local Determinations
- Monitoring and Audit arrangements.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 3 January 2008, the DCLG issued a consultation document on proposed Regulations to put into effect detailed arrangements for the new conduct regime whereby allegations that the Members Code of Conduct has been breached will be made directly to the local Standards Committee, rather than to the Standards Board for England.
- 2.2 A response to the consultation document is sought by 15 February 2008.

- 2.3 The covering letter and consultation document are attached as Appendix A and B. There are 16 questions within the consultation document and a summary of these is attached as Appendix C.

3. Financial and legal implications

- 3.1 There will be a financial implication if the consultation proposals are adopted, as there will clearly be additional work for the Monitoring Officer and her staff, together with democratic services officers.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider its response to each of the 16 questions in the consultation document and also any further comments it would wish to make on the paper generally.

Lead officer contact

Name; Deborah Upton
Job Title Assistant Director, Corporate Services
Telephone: 01634 332133 Email: deborah.upton@medway.gov.uk

Background papers

1. Covering Letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government
2. Consultation Document
3. Summary of Questions