

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF COUNCIL

Report No. 14

Date of Meeting	16 May 2007
Title of Report	The Members' Code of Conduct
Link to Corporate Priorities	No direct link to a specific priority. Governance – including Ethical Framework and Standards underpins delivery of all of the Corporate Priorities.
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To recommend through the Standards Committee the adoption of the revised Model Code of Conduct for Members of North Wiltshire District Council.

Officer Recommendations

That the Council approve the Standards Committee recommendation to adopt the Model Code of Conduct for Members as attached as Appendix 1 to this report to take effect as from 3 May 2007 and that the General Principles attached as Appendix C be annexed to the Model Code of Conduct.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE

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1. The Revised Model Code of Conduct

- 1.1 The Government has published a revised Model Code of Conduct for Members (attached as Appendix A).
- 1.2 The provisions of the revised Model Code are mandatory, and will take effect on 1 October 2007 unless the Council adopts the revised Model Code from an earlier date.
- 1.3 A summary of the main changes to the Model Code is set out at Appendix B.
- 1.4 A presentation on the revised Model Code of conduct will be given to each of the Council's Area Committees and representatives of Town and Parish Councils will be invited to attend.
- 1.5 Government guidance states that a Council may adopt additional provisions as long as they are consistent with the Model Code. However, the Standards Board believes that all local authority Members should be subject to the same standards and suggests that Councils adopt the revised Model Code without amendment to ensure consistency throughout England.
- 1.6 The Standards Board advises that the Statement of General Principles (attached as Appendix C) is also adopted as an annex to the Code of Conduct.

2. The Standards Committee

- 2.1 It is the statutory role of the Standards Committee to advise the Council on the adoption of the Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 The Standards Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 23 April 2007 and agreed to recommend that the Council adopt the Model Code of Conduct with the General Principles included as an annex.

3. Administrative Measures

- 3.1 Once the revised Code has been adopted a notice to this effect must be published in one or more local newspapers circulating in the North Wiltshire District.
- 3.2 Notice of the adoption must also be given to the Standards Board.

4. Members

- 4.1 Once the Council has adopted the revised Model Code of Conduct all Members are bound by it. In addition, when signing their declaration of acceptance of office, they must agree in writing that they will observe the Code.
- 4.2 If any Member fails to sign up to the revised Model Code within two months of the date of adoption they cease automatically to be a Member of the Council.

5. Community and Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The Code of Conduct is an integral part of the Government's proposals for modernising local government.

6. Legal Implications

6.2 The provisions of the revised Code are mandatory.

Appendices:	Appendix A – The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 Appendix B – Summary of Changes to the Code of Conduct Appendix C – Schedule of General Principles
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report:

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Members' Code of Conduct	Standards Committee – 23 April 2007	ST40