

New standards framework

The council is continuing to develop proposals for the new standards regime, which is due to be implemented from 1 July 2012. The latest position is summarised below.

Work has been undertaken in drafting some of the documentation that will underpin the new arrangements. These include:

1. Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints
2. Terms of reference for a new standards committee for Wiltshire Council
3. Job description and person specification for the independent person

The current draft documents are available to see on the town and parish council page of the Wiltshire [council website](#). The Standards Committee will consider these again on 18 April 2012 with a view to recommending them to Full Council for approval on 15 May 2012.

We are still awaiting details of the rules on disclosable pecuniary interests and, as yet, no agreement has been reached by the Local Government Association (LGA), National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS) on the content of a recommended national model code of conduct. Consequently we have not been able to progress work on the draft code of conduct at this stage.

It is understood that progress is being made by the LGA on a model code and it is hoped that a draft will be available for review in the near future.

In the meantime the Standards Committee has agreed as a fall-back position to use the existing code of conduct as the basis for a new code of conduct, amended as necessary to meet the requirements of the new legislation.

It is proposed to issue further guidance, including briefing sessions for all councillors when we are in a position to put forward a draft code of conduct.

Please address any queries on the new standards regime to Ian Gibbons, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer on 01225 713052 or email ian.gibbons@wiltshire.gov.uk or Nina Wilton, Deputy Monitoring Officer on 01225 713078 or email nina.wilton@wiltshire.gov.uk