

Name of meeting: Council

Date: 23 May 2012

Title of report: Code of Conduct Transitional Arrangements

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| Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? | No |
| Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ? | No |
| Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ? | N/a |
| Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name | N/a |
| Is it signed off by the Director of Resources? | No |
| Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal & Governance? | Yes, in her role as Monitoring Officer |
| Cabinet member portfolio | N/a |

Electoral [wards](#) affected: N/a

Ward councillors consulted: N/a

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the adoption of a transitional code of conduct to regulate the conduct of elected and voting co-opted members during any interval between the abolition of the current standards regime, which the Department for Communities and Local Government indicate will take place with effect from 1 July 2012, and the adoption by the Council of new arrangements for standards matters including a new code of conduct. The relevant statutory instrument has not yet been made and it is therefore not possible to bring a draft new code of conduct to this meeting of Council and it is therefore intended to bring such a report to the next meeting of Council. A transitional code of conduct is necessary because the current code of conduct, and in particular the sections dealing with prejudicial interests, will not be consistent with the Localism Act 2011 when the relevant provisions of that Act commence.

2. Key points

At its meeting on 14 May 2012 the Standards Committee considered the adoption of a transitional code of conduct and the officer report which included a draft transitional code of conduct at Annex B is attached. The Standards Committee resolved to:

recommend to Council that in the event that the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 which relate to the abolition of the current standards regime are brought into force on 1 July 2012, Council adopt the proposed transitional code of conduct set out at Annex B to cover any interval between the abolition of the current standards regime and the adoption of new arrangements by the Council.

3. Implications for the Council

The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct among councillors and voting co-opted members is an important part of maintaining public confidence in the council and its members. It is therefore important that the Council has in place at all times a code of conduct which is consistent with the statutory regime.

4. Consultees and their opinions

N/a

5. Next steps

N/a

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Council resolve that in the event that the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 which relate to the abolition of the current standards regime are brought into force on 1 July 2012, Council adopt the attached proposed transitional code of conduct to cover any interval between the abolition of the current standards regime and the adoption of new arrangements by the Council.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

N/a

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

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Background Papers: none

9. Assistant director responsible

Assistant Director of Legal, Governance and Monitoring in her role as Monitoring Officer

