

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM: The Monitoring Officer**

**REPORT NUMBER    **G 60****

**TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**DATE OF MEETING: 27 July 2007**

**ADOPTION OF REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

1.    **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To appraise members of the steps taken in relation to the Committee's recommendation to adopt the revised Code of Conduct.

2.    **RECOMMENDATION**

That the content of this report be noted.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3.    **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1   None

4.    **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

5.    **KEY INFORMATION**

5.1   On 17 May 2007 full Council approved the Committee's recommendation contained in Paper F220 to adopt the new Code of Conduct for Members with immediate effect. This included the additional provision to require members to undertake training on the Code within 3 months of the date of their election or adoption of the Code. Council further agreed to annex the ten general principles of conduct to the Code (see Appendix 1). The principles are referred to in paragraph 1.(2), Part 1 of the Code and should be read together with the provisions of the Code. The general principles do not form part of the Code itself.

5.2   The Monitoring Officer can confirm that the Standards Board for England was immediately notified of adoption of the Code.

5.3   Adoption of the new Code is further required to be advertised in at least one local newspaper circulating in the Council's area and provide details of where the Code may be inspected by members of the public. The Monitoring Officer has arranged for a combined advertisement to be placed in the East Anglian Daily Times on behalf of the Council and all parish/town councils within the District. This has been on the proviso that the Code is adopted by local councils in unamended form before 6 July to enable the notice to be placed within a reasonable timescale of adoption.

- 5.4 The new Code has additionally necessitated completion of new Register of Interests forms by all members to comply with the new provisions. The Monitoring Officer has received completed forms on behalf of all Babergh members and is in the process of checking all forms submitted by parish and town councils. A number of forms have needed to be returned for being incomplete.
- 5.5. The Monitoring Officer will be writing to town/parish clerks to remind them of the requirements for adoption of the Code and the Register of Interests.
- 5.6. Members will be verbally updated at Committee of the latest position regarding adoption of the Code across the District.

6. **APPENDIX**

Appendix 1 – The Ten General Principles of Conduct prescribed by the Secretary of State

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None

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**ANNEXURE – THE TEN GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

The general principles referred to in paragraph 1(2) of the Code governing your conduct under The Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001 are set out below:

*Selflessness*

1. Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

*Honesty and Integrity*

2. Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

*Objectivity*

3. Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

*Accountability*

4. Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

*Openness*

5. Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

*Personal Judgement*

6. Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

*Respect for Others*

7. Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

*Duty to Uphold the Law*

8. Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

*Stewardship*

**9.** Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

*Leadership*

**10.** Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

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