

**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007

## **REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT**

Author – Paul Froggatt Ext.No. 2212

### **1 PURPOSE**

To present a revised Code of Conduct to the Council for Adoption

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Council adopts the revised Code of Conduct with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007.
2. To note the training arrangements that have been made for new Members.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Audit 2007 was made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and came into force on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. Every Local Authority must adopt the revised code of conduct (with or without local additions) by resolution of the Full Council within six months of the order being made i.e. on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

The Standards Committee had considered the new Code of Conduct in detail and is not prepared to add any further additions to the Code.

### **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

Significant changes are proposed to the procedures for dealing with allegations that Members have breached the Code of Conduct. These changes, contained in the new Local Government Bill, are expected to be announced later this year.

Members will not have to give a new undertaking to observe the revised Code of Conduct; they have all previously given an undertaking to observe 'the Authorities Code of Conduct for the time being'.

Every Members is required to make a new registration of their interests within 28 days of the Council's adoption of the new Code of Conduct as registrations under the old code are not carried forward.

Any allegations of mis-conduct raised prior to the adoption of the revised Code will continue to be judged in accordance with the old Code of Conduct.

After adoption of the new Code the Council is required to:-

1. Ensure that copies of the revised code are available for inspection of the Authority's Officers.
2. Publish a notice of the adoption of the revised Code in any new Council newspaper and also in local newspapers and send a copy of the new Code of Conduct as adopted to the Standards Board for England.

Appendix:

Stevenage Borough Council – Code of Conduct for Members – July 2007

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

## **APPENDICES**

Stevenage Borough Council – Code of Conduct for Members – July 2007