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| REPORT TO: | STANDARDS COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 4 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 21 ST APRIL 2005 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | MONITORING OFFICER | OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | ANDREA McCASKIE (5831) | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | CONSULTATION PAPER ON REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | |

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That a Special Meeting of the Committee be arranged to formulate a response on the Consultation Paper for recommendation to the Full Council.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider a Consultation Paper issued by the Standards Board for England on a review of the Code of Conduct for Members.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Code of Conduct was introduced in November 2001 and came into force across all authorities in May 2002. It is now considered timely to review the effectiveness of the Code of Conduct and explore ways in which it could be improved or clarified. At the request of the Minister of State for Local and Regional Government, the Standards Board for England is therefore conducting a review of the Model Code of Conduct for Members. Following consultation, the Standards Board for England will formulate recommendations for consideration by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

4.2 A copy of the full consultation paper is attached at Annexe 'A' together with a copy of the Model Code of Conduct adopted by the Council at Annexe 'B'.

4.3 In view of the length of the consultation paper and the various questions posed requiring consideration, it is suggested that a Special Meeting of the Committee be arranged early in May to formulate a response on the Consultation Paper for recommendation to the Full Council on 19th May 2005, prior to the closing date for comments on 17th June 2005.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Article 8.02 of the Council's Constitution provides that a role of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Members.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 Consultation Paper on the Review of the Code of Conduct for Members