

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

THE LOCAL JOINT PANEL – 3 DECEMBER 2008

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE EMPLOYER'S SIDE

6(C) CONSULTATION ON A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that Members of the Local Joint Panel and Human Resources Committee be requested to respond to the questions raised in the consultation paper in relation to the Employees' Code of Conduct prior to the specified deadline.

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1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to obtain Members' views on the consultation paper on the Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 **Fit for purpose, services fit for you**

*Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.*

**Leading the way, working together**

*Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.*

3.0 Background

3.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has issued a consultation paper (Appendix 'B', pages 6.80 - 6.117) seeking views on twenty-one specific issues relating to amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members and the introduction of a Code of Conduct for Employees. Views are sought by 24 December 2008 with the intention of implementation by May 2009.

#### 4.0 Report

4.1 The questions and draft responses are set out in the attached Appendix 'A' (pages 6.57 - 6.79).

4.2 Standards Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2008 considered the matter and agreed to refer issues relating to the Employees' Code of Conduct within the consultation document attached at Appendix 'C' (pages 6.118 - 6.124) to the Local Joint Panel for consideration.

4.3 Standards Committee agreed a number of amendments to the draft comments the detail of which will be reported orally at the meeting.

#### 5.0 Consultation

5.1 Unison have been consulted on the proposed Code of Conduct for Officers.

#### 6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 Implications are discussed in the report as they arise.

#### 7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

#### 8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 The Council has an Officer Code of Conduct which would be replaced by the new code.

#### 9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 The Codes of Conduct will apply from May 2009. Breaches of the Member code may result in complaints to the Council's Standards Committee. Breaches of the Officer Code of Conduct may result action being required.

## Background Papers

East Herts Officer Code of Conduct  
Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees –  
A consultation

Contact Officer: Simon Drinkwater – Monitoring Officer and Director of  
Neighbourhood Services – ext 1405

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