

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 4 JULY 2012

REPORT BY MONITORING OFFICER

CODE OF CONDUCT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To confirm adoption of (an updated) Code of Conduct

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**that the Member Code of Conduct, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’, be adopted and the decision made on 16 May 2012 concerning arrangements for dealing with complaints be reaffirmed.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Council, at its Annual meeting held on 16 May 2012, agreed to adopt the Local Government Association’s “Template code and guidance note on conduct” under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 At the time of that meeting, regulations concerning Disclosable Pecuniary Interests had not been made.
- 1.3 The regulations were subsequently made and, as a consequence, statutory provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests have been added to the Authority’s code on Member conduct – see **Essential Reference Paper ‘B’**.
- 1.4 Council further agreed to authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to update the adopted code to incorporate provisions considered to be appropriate for the registration and disclosure of interests other than Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that no other provisions for the registration and disclosure of interests other than Disclosable Pecuniary Interests have been identified for inclusion within the code.
- 2.2 Due to the lack of transitional arrangements concerning the changes to the statutory framework governing local authority member conduct, the Authority will need to resolve to adopt, again, a new code of conduct and the arrangements to deal with complaints.
- 2.3 The code at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** is that adopted at the annual meeting in May but with the addition of statutory provisions concerning Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- 2.4 **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** contains the standard information narrative that will form part of the agenda lead sheets for meetings of the Authority. The narrative reflects the requirements of the new standards regime in terms of Member interests.

## 3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

## Background Papers

None

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