

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	8 July 2015

REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Standards Committee from its meeting on 23 June 2015 relating to the revised Code of Conduct for Members.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the revised Code of Conduct for Members.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Code of Conduct has not been reviewed since its approval in June 2012. The proposed document is considered to be more succinct, provides greater clarity and is based upon legislation and recommendation from a joint workshop with the 3 independent persons, 3 members of Blackpool Council's Standards Committee and 3 members of Fylde Borough Council's Standards Committee.

3.2a	Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?	No, but if approved will replace the current Code of Conduct for Members, in the Council's constitution.
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3.2b	Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?	Yes
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3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To not agree the recommendations of the Standards Committee and maintain the current code or to make different changes to the Code. However, having the same/ very similar

Code of Conduct to Fylde Borough Council will help in carrying out reciprocal arrangements.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is “Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce”.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2015 considered a revised Code of Conduct for Members following a joint workshop comprising of members of the Standards Committee, Independent Persons and Fylde Borough Council Councillors.

5.2 Both Councils have had identical codes since the introduction of the Localism Act 2011. Fylde Borough Council has already had this revised code adopted by their Council meeting prior to the election, as the Council was updating its Constitution in preparation for moving to a committee system. Due to the timing of ordinary Council meetings, this is the first opportunity to present formally the revised code for approval.

5.3 The revised Code of Conduct for Member from the Standards Committee meeting is attached at Appendix 9(a).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 9(a) – Updated Code of Conduct for Members.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, every council must adopt a Code of Conduct, which must at least include disclosable pecuniary interests and any local additions.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Having a clearer, more user-friendly code of conduct will hopefully assist with the understanding of it by elected members and the public and therefore it should mean there is greater clarity over its interpretation.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The Council has a value of being accountable and this revised code of Conduct will help embed the standards that elected and co-opted members have to adhere to.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the joint working group between Fylde Borough Council, Blackpool Council and the three Independent persons.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.