

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2nd APRIL 2008

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
THE MONITORING OFFICER**

The Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Standards Committee of the revised statutory Members Code of Conduct and to recommend its adoption to Council.

2. CONNECTION TO CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN / OTHER PRIORITIES

The Code of Conduct applies to all Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority and impacts upon their ability to contribute to the Corporate Improvement Plan and Other Priorities.

3. BACKGROUND

The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008 revokes the current Code of Conduct and brings into effect a revised Model Code of Conduct on or after the 18th of April 2008.

4. CURRENT SITUATION / PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The provisions of the Model Code of Conduct are mandatory for all Councils to adopt. It is possible for additions to be inserted locally which go beyond the statutory requirements but none of the mandatory provisions can be excluded. The Monitoring Officer recommends the adoption of the Code as it has been statutorily drafted at least initially.
- 4.2 By virtue of section 51 (2) of the Local Government Act 2000 the Authority will have 6 months from the date of the 2008 Order being made in which to adopt a new Code of Conduct based upon the Model Code of Conduct. It is recommended that the Authority adopt the new Code of Conduct to coincide with the retirement of the existing members and the assumption of office of the newly elected members following the local government elections on the 1st of May 2008.
- 4.3 By virtue of section 51 (1) of the Local Government Act 2000 current

members must, before the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the date on which the Code of Conduct is adopted, sign up to the Code of Conduct in the form of an undertaking. New members who are elected in May 2008 will need to sign up to the new Code of Conduct before they are able to act in that office.

5. EFFECT UPON POLICY FRAMEWORK & PROCEDURE RULES

As with the Corporate Improvement Plan and Other Priorities, the conduct of members and their ability to contribute to the proper functioning of the Authority is fundamental to the effective operation of the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The legal implications in relation to the new Model Code of Conduct are as set out in part 4 of this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Standards Committee notes the Model Code of Conduct for Members.
- 8.2 That Council be recommended to adopt the Model Code of Conduct with effect from May 2008 subject to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008 coming into force before that date.

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Background Papers:

None