

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	Standards Committee
2.	<b>Date:</b>	10 November 2011
3.	<b>Title:</b>	Voluntary Code of Conduct
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	Chief Executive's Directorate

### 5. Summary

Since the Committee last met on 8<sup>th</sup> September, it seems that the Government may have had a change of heart and there may be a statutory code of conduct after all. The Bill is set for its 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the House of Lords on 31 October.

A press statement on the Bill, issued by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), is reproduced at **Appendix A**, the ACSeS commentary on the standards clauses in the Bill together with the ACSeS draft model code of conduct is reproduced at **Appendix B** and a copy of the statutory model code of conduct is reproduced at **Appendix C**.

ACSeS anticipate:

- local authorities being obliged to adopt a code of conduct;
- the adopted code will contain provisions recommended by the Local Government Association and the National Association of Local Councils respectively plus provisions particular to each authority;
- the LGA and NALC will be required to review their respective codes as appropriate.

The ACSeS code of conduct is a paler and vaguer version of the statutory code.

### 6. Recommendations

**It is recommended that the Committee notes the apparent change in the Government's position, and the ACSeS draft voluntary code of conduct as the possible basis of a model voluntary code of conduct.**

## **7. Proposals and details**

Please see paragraph 5.

## **8. Finance**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **9 Risks and Uncertainties**

Until the Localism Bill becomes law, the direction of the standards regime will remain unclear.

## **10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The Council is dedicated to high standards of conduct and will be under a duty to promote and maintain such standards by members and co-opted members following the Bill becoming law.

## **11 Background Papers and Consultation**

The Localism Bill

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