

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2012</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>The Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Conduct</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

## **5. Summary**

The Standards Committee at its last meeting proposed changes to the Code of Conduct, which are discussed in the report.

## **6. Recommendations**

**That the Committee considers and, if appropriate, approves amendments to the Code of Conduct.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

At its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September the Committee considered the new Code of Conduct, which had been drafted to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

Under the current Code the arrangements for the registration of interests, the disclosure of interests at meetings and participating in the discussion when a Member has either a personal interest or a disclosable pecuniary interest are:-

	<b>Personal Interest</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>
<b>Registration</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Disclosure at meeting</b>	Only if not already notified to Monitoring Officer (1)	Yes (1)
<b>Participation in discussion / vote</b>	Yes	No (unless granted a dispensation)

(1) N.B. If the interest is sensitive the Member need only disclose its existence and not its nature.

Following discussions at the previous meeting it was proposed that the Code be amended to provide that, where a Member has a personal interest in any business of the Council, in addition to disclosing that interest upon the Register of Interests form, it should be necessary to declare that interest at the meeting. The proposal was discussed at the Parish Council Network on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and was considered to enhance the transparency of the process and provide increased clarity both for Members and others.

In addition to this amendment the Committee should consider whether, in addition to declaring a personal interest, a Member should be allowed to remain in the meeting and participate in the discussion or should withdraw.

## **8. Risks and Uncertainties**

As contained in the report.

## **9. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

None

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

None

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