

 Standards Committee – 10 February 2010		Agenda Item No.
Title	Code of Conduct - declarations	
For further information about this report please contact	Robert Inman	
Service Area	Members' Services	
Wards of the District directly affected	None	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number		
Background Papers	None	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	-	
Chief Executive	-	
CMT	-	
Section 151 Officer	-	
Finance	-	
Portfolio Holder(s)	-	
Consultation Undertaken		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report outlines a recommendation made by the Review Sub-Committee that declarations of interest, as referred to within the Council's Code of Conduct, should also be made at meetings of working parties, Panels and informal meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That consideration be given to recommending to the Council that the Council's Code of Conduct should be amended so that meetings of Working Parties, Panels and informal meetings are included within the remit of the Code.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Consideration has been given recently to a complaint that a member of the Council did not declare an interest in a particular matter during a meeting of a Working Party.
- 3.2 No breach of the Code of Conduct was found by the Assessment Sub-Committee. This decision was reconsidered subsequently by the Review Sub-Committee and the same decision was reached. However, the Review Sub-Committee agreed that the making and recording of declarations of interests at working party meetings, Panel meetings and informal meetings would help protect Councillors from complaints being made against them in the future regarding the alleged failure to declare any personal and possibly prejudicial interests that they might have had.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There are no financial issues regarding this matter.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 None.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The Council's Code of Conduct defines 'meetings' to which the Code applies (including declaring interests) as:

"Any meeting of

(a) the authority;

(b) the executive of the authority;

(c) any of the authority's or its executive's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, or area committees"

- 7.2 This does not therefore specifically include working parties, Panels or informal meetings.

- 7.3 The Council is able to amend its Code of Conduct by making additions to it but cannot remove any of the requirements which appear in the national Model Code upon which the Council's own Code of Conduct is based.