

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
4th FEBRUARY 2005**

CODE OF CONDUCT – LOCAL DETERMINATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the implementation of the above Regulations.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the:

- i) Council adopt the procedures agreed at the Standards Committee on the 27th January 2004.
- ii) Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Chair, be authorised to amend the procedure to comply with good practice.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 As from the 4th November 2004 Councils have the power to investigate allegations of less serious breaches of the Members Code of Conduct. Under the Regulations, an Ethical Standards Officer, appointed by the Standards Board for England, will be able to hand the job of investigating less serious allegations to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

3.2 It appears that the Standards Board have an initial target of remitting 50% of new cases to the Council's monitoring.

3.3 At your meeting in January 2004, you agreed, in advance of the Regulations, a procedure for dealing with such investigations. At this stage it is not recommended that the agreed procedure be amended other than if it does not accord with Government guidance or good practice.

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