

West Devon Borough Council

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Standards Committee
DATE	19 March 2013
REPORT TITLE	West Devon Members' Code of Conduct
REPORT OF	Monitoring Officer
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

To update Members on the West Devon Members' Code of Conduct

Financial implications:

There are no financial implications to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Standards Committee notes the report.

Officer contact:

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1. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1.1 At its meeting on 26 June 2012 the Council adopted the West Devon Members' Code of Conduct in accordance with the new provisions under the Localism Act. The Localism Act abolished the national Code and required all councils to adopt a new local code from 1 July 2012.
- 1.2 The majority of the Parish and Town Councils within the Borough have adopted either the West Devon Code or the NALC Code.
- 1.3 As members will note from the separate report on this agenda, we have not received a sufficient amount of complaints (nor progressed them through the whole process) to enable an assessment of the effectiveness of the new Code until there has been further application of the new Code and procedures.

- 1.4 At its meeting on 26 June 2012, the Council delegated to the Monitoring Officer the drafting and implementation of new procedures for dealing with complaints under the new local Code. Members of the Standards Committee considered the new Complaints procedure at its meeting on 4 September 2012 and approved the procedure 'Dealing with Standards Complaints', and agreed that the Procedure be reviewed in 12 months in the light of experience. It is proposed to bring a review of the Procedure to the July meeting of this Committee.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The relevant powers are set out in the Localism Act 2011
- 2.2 The Standards Committee is responsible for the Standards complaints procedures and for recommending a Code of Members' Conduct to Council.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate priorities engaged:	Community Life
Statutory powers:	The Localism Act 2011
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Not applicable
Biodiversity considerations:	Not applicable
Sustainability considerations:	Not applicable
Crime and disorder implications:	Not applicable
Background papers:	Council report 26 June 2012 Standards Committee report 4 September 2012

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Lack of oversight of the implementation of the local Code of Conduct	For the Standards Committee to have an overview and ability to assess the Code of Conduct	5	2	10	↔	Regular updates to, and monitoring by, the Standards Committee	Monitoring Officer

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ⇄