

Council

25th June 2012

THE NEW STANDARDS SYSTEM UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

Final regulations under the Localism Act 2011 for the new standards system, required to be in place for 1st July 2012, were only published late on 8th June 2012. Prior to this, draft proposals had been considered by the Constitution Improvement Working Group on 29th May 2012.

A report on the proposals is to be considered by the Executive on 20th June 2012 (attached) following pre-decision scrutiny by the Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 14th June 2012. The Standards Committee will also be considering a similar report at its meeting on 19th June 2012. The relevant minutes from these meetings will be circulated for the Council meeting.

The decisions required from Council are –

- (1) To adopt a Code of Conduct.**
- (2) To appoint at least one, but probably two or more Independent Persons under the Act.**
- (3) To confirm any interests it requires to be registered in addition to the pecuniary interests set out in the Act.**
- (4) To agree the terms of reference for a new Standards Committee.**
- (5) To agree the process for dealing with dispensations, whether by the Urgency Committee or by a re-constituted Standards committee.**