

FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING – 13 NOVEMBER 2008

CONSULTATION – COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: REAL PEOPLE, REAL POWER – CODES OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES (Report No. 4)

The Committee discussed the questions outlined in Annex A of the Consultation and the following comments were made:

Questions 1 – 5

Questions 1 – 5 related to conduct of Members in their non-official capacity. The definition of this was set out in Chapter 2 of the Consultation. The Committee felt that it would be difficult to impose sanctions for conduct during non-official business. The Committee discussed in detail what could be classified as a non-official situation.

It was clarified that if a criminal investigation were to be undertaken in respect of allegations of misconduct, the Standards Committee would not be able to review the alleged misconduct until any criminal trial had been completed.

Question 6

Parish councils had recently been required to include in their standing orders the section of the Code of Conduct which related to provisions for Members to speak on matters for which they had a prejudicial interest.

Questions 7 & 8

The Chairman requested that Committee members inform the Monitoring Officer should they have any suggestions in response to these questions.

Question 9

The Committee considered the proposed timescale of two months to be reasonable.

Questions 13 – 22

The Committee discussed whether a mandatory code of conduct for local government employees was necessary as it would take precedence over any individual codes already in place.

Resolved: That the report be noted.