

Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

Report of the Clerk

For further information about this report please contact Sue Kembrey, Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Fire Authority, on 01952 383200 or Matthew Cumberbatch, Group Solicitor, on 01952 383255.

1 Purpose of Report

The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently consulting in respect of the new regulations and orders, which will flow from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Many of the regulations and orders relate to new provisions, which will be dealt with by Standards Committee. This report seeks the Fire Authority's agreement to the proposed consultation response attached as an appendix.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked:

- a) To consider and comment upon the proposed response to the consultation, attached as an appendix to this report; and
- b) To delegate authority to the Clerk and Monitoring Officer to finalise and submit its response to the Department for Communities and Local Government

3 Background

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act) will make changes to the ethical framework and have a direct effect upon the work undertaken by Standards Committee. This relates predominantly to the move towards local referrals of allegations of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.



In order to set up the procedure for administering the new provisions contained in the Act a number of regulations and orders will need to be put in place. As a result the Department for Communities and Local Government has released a consultation paper, which can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laconduct

A draft response has been prepared (attached as an appendix to this report) and views are sought from the Fire Authority as to whether the proposed responses are satisfactory or whether amendments and/or additions need to be made. Unfortunately, because of the timing of the consultation and the closing date for responses (15 February 2008), it has not been possible to bring this report to a meeting of the Fire Authority's Standards Committee. Accordingly, permission is sought for the Clerk and Monitoring Officer to submit the final response following comments made by the Authority.

4 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have decided that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

7 Appendix

Orders and Regulations relating to the Code of Local Authority Members in England Consultation
Draft Response from Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

8 Background Papers

Department for Communities and Local Government
Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England Consultation January 2008



Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment		Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings		Retained	
Environmental		Risk and Insurance	
Financial		Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Strategic Planning	
Information Communications and Technology		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*

