

Committee:	Standards Committee	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	13 th August 2013	Category	*
Subject:	Amendments to the Standards Framework – amended Nolan Principles.	Status	Open
Report by:	Solicitor to the Council		
Other Officers involved:	Legal and Standards Officer		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	N/A		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure
CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services

ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning.

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation.

This goes to the ethical framework which affects all Councillors in the performance of their duties and therefore affects all the Corporate Aims.

TARGETS

None

VALUE FOR MONEY

The proposals do not have any value for money considerations.

THE REPORT

When the Council adopted the Members' Code of Conduct in July 2013, it included the then current Nolan Principles. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has recommended amendments to the descriptions of the Seven General Principles in order to provide further clarity to their meaning.

The Principles are:-

Figure 4: The seven principles of public life

Principle	Revised description
<i>Preamble</i>	The principles of public life apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the civil service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, Naps, and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also have application to all those in other sectors delivering public services.
<i>Selflessness</i>	Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
<i>Integrity</i>	Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
<i>Objectivity</i>	Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
<i>Accountability</i>	Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
<i>Openness</i>	Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

For Members information I have attached Chapter 3 of the report which covers the discussion around the changes and also Appendix 6 which shows the original descriptions.

As a number of Parish and Town Councils used the Bolsover Code of Conduct, I intend to inform those Councils of the change to the definitions of the Seven Nolan Principles.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The amendment of the Council's Members' Code of Conduct to include the revised Nolan Principles.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: None
Legal: As in the report
Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S) that

- 1. The amendments to the Seven General Principle made by the Committee for Standards in Public Life be recommended to the Council for approval for incorporation into the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.**
- 2. Parish and Town Councils within the District's area, which have adopted the District Council's Code, be informed of the change.**

ATTACHMENT: Y – the revised Nolan Principles
FILE REFERENCE: None
SOURCE DOCUMENT: The revised Nolan Principles.