

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct  
**Committee:** City Council  
**Date:** 22 April 2013  
**CMT Member:** Tim Howes (Monitoring Officer)  
**Author:** Judith Shore, Democratic and Member Support Manager  
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**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

In July 2012, full council adopted an amended code of conduct and instructed the Monitoring Officer to draft a revised code of conduct in consultation with the Constitution Review Group and group chief whips.

Consultation has now taken place and council is asked to consider the revised code which is attached to this report.

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### **Corporate Plan 2012-2015:**

A clear and concise code of conduct will assist councillors and members of the public to understand the requirements to uphold the values and principles of those elected or appointed to public life.

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land**

No implications.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

None.

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### **Equality and Diversity**

No impact.

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### **Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

Council is recommended to:

1. adopt the revised code of conduct
2. amend the council's constitution accordingly

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The council is required, by the Localism Act 2011, to adopt a councillors code of conduct. A number of codes produced by other organisations were considered during the process.

**Published work / information:**

## Local Government Association's template code of conduct

[http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-centre/-/journal\\_content/56/10171/3376577/NEWS-TEMPLATE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-centre/-/journal_content/56/10171/3376577/NEWS-TEMPLATE)

Communities and Local Government department model code of conduct

[http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=6860b6ab-7cb2-44bb-987b-f638981ff963&groupId=10171](http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=6860b6ab-7cb2-44bb-987b-f638981ff963&groupId=10171)

## Background papers:

None

**Sign off:**

Fin	AB 11041 3 61	Leg	17271/DVS	Mon Off	TH	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Tim Howes, Monitoring Officer													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? n/a													

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Under the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities were obliged to adopt a model code of conduct.
- 1.2. The Localism Act repealed the model code of conduct but local authorities are still required to have a code of conduct. There is discretion regarding the content but it must include the requirement to register disclosable pecuniary interests and reflect the principles of public life namely selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- 1.3. A number of model codes of conduct were produced by the Local Government Association, the Communities and Local Government department and the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1. Members of the Constitution Review Group were initially consulted regarding a number of options for a code of conduct.
- 2.2. They agreed that detailed discussions should first be held between the chair of CRG (Councillor Stevens) and the political group whips (Councillors Rennie and Ball).
- 2.3. After very constructive discussions, a first draft code of conduct was drafted and each political group was asked how it wished to proceed with respect to consulting its members.
- 2.4. Officers attended a Labour group meeting and further amendments were made to the code following the meeting.
- 2.5. CRG members met again and the attached code was the outcome of those discussions.