

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**9TH JUNE 2005**

**1. 'A CODE FOR THE FUTURE' – CONSULTATION ON A REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

Report of the Clerk.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- 1.1 That the Committee, on behalf of the Authority, approves the response drawn up by the Standards Committee for submission to the Standards Board for England.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 This report is submitted to obtain the Committee's approval to a response to the consultation exercise being undertaken by the Standards Board for England on the review of the Code of Conduct for Members.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A model Code of Conduct for Members was issued by the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions in 2002 and was adopted by the Fire Authority with effect from 1st May 2002.
- 3.2 The Minister of State for Local & Regional Government has asked the Standards Board for England to conduct a review into the operation of the Code of Conduct for Members.
- 3.3 As part of this process, the Standards Board has produced a consultation paper, which sets out a number of questions on which the Board would like to receive comments. All Members of the Authority have been asked for their views on the consultation document.

- 3.4 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 3rd June 2005 will be formulating a response to the consultation document.
- 3.5 The consultation period ends on 24th June, 2005, immediately prior to the Authority meeting, and this report has therefore been brought to the Executive Committee as a matter of urgency. The draft response drawn up by the Standards Committee will be circulated to Members as soon as it is available.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Code of Conduct adopted by the Authority is based on the ten general principles recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, one of which is 'respect for others'. The Code of Conduct requires Members to promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

5. **CORPORATE AIMS SUPPORTED**

The principal corporate aim supported by the information in this report is:

1. To support the Authority in meeting its statutory duties, standards and expectations.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

**F N SUMMERS  
CLERK**