
members are required to read the Code together with these general principles. Although members are not legally obliged to observe the principles, a failure to follow them may indicate behaviour that could potentially breach the Code.

- Subject to the enactment of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, the Code will apply where **criminal activity** has been committed in a private capacity, but not in relation to other conduct which solely concerns a member's private life.
- The ban on **disclosing confidential information** has been relaxed to allow disclosure of confidential information where:
 - the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice (provided that person agrees not to disclose it)
 - the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest, made in good faith, and does not breach the reasonable requirements of the authority

The Standards Board's comprehensive guidance on the new Code of Conduct is available on our website at www.standardsboard.gov.uk

We will be sending printed copies of the guidance to all monitoring officers and parish clerks soon.

Adopting and amending the new Code of Conduct

The new Code of Conduct applies to the same range of authorities covered by the existing Code. However, only one composite Code has been made for different types of authorities. As a result, some paragraphs are

not mandatory for your authority, and particular wording within mandatory paragraphs may not be relevant to your authority. For example, some paragraphs refer specifically to executive arrangements and overview and scrutiny which parishes do not have, while other paragraphs expressly apply only to the Greater London Authority or Metropolitan Police Authority.

Councils may adopt a version of the Model Code that excludes non-mandatory provisions or wording that is not relevant to the particular authority, so long as it is consistent with the application of the mandatory provisions to that relevant authority. To avoid confusion and ensure consistency, we recommend that any amendments do not affect the subsequent numbering of paragraphs. To assist parish and town councils, we have prepared a 'Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils' which is available from our website.

If your authority simply adopts the Model Code, this means that it does not adopt the non-mandatory paragraphs for that authority. For example, paragraph 12(2) is not mandatory for parish and town councils, English and Welsh police authorities, the Greater London Authority, national park authorities, and fire and rescue authorities. Therefore, if these types of authorities wish to adopt paragraph 12(2), they will need to do so expressly. See also the article on page 4 *Special advice for parish and town councils adopting the new Code of Conduct*.

Advertising the new Model Code

As soon as your authority has adopted a revised Code of Conduct, it must send notification to the Standards Board and make copies available for inspection by the public. It must also publish a notice in a local newspaper, stating that the council has adopted a revised Code. The authority can also publish the notice in its own newspaper, if it has one, but this cannot be the only notice that is published.