



AGENDA ITEM: 10

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
1 November 2006**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Contact for further information: Mrs G L Rowe (Ext 5004)

SUBJECT: CODE OF CONDUCT SEMINAR - ARRANGEMENTS

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Members on arrangements for the Annual Code of Conduct Seminar given the imminent revision to the Code of Conduct.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the update be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Traditionally we have, each November, had Seminars for all District and Parish Councillors and relevant officers on the Code of Conduct, which have been most successful. More recently the venue being Edge Hill.

3.2 The Committee agreed to delegate to myself in consultation with the Chairman arrangements for the next Conference given the potential revisions to the Code and the uncertainty of the timing of this.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The revised Code has not yet been published by the Government but the Minister indicated at the Standards Board Conference that he would like Councils to adopt the New Code at their Annual Meetings in May 2007. If this were to be the case then we would need to train Members on the content of the New Code in March/April 2007.
- 4.2 Given that the revised Code has not yet been published for consultation this timescale may be unrealistic. However, at present, the Chairman and I are working on the Seminar being held at Edge Hill in late March/April 2006.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 Training on the revised Code will assist Members in achieving high ethical standards.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The costs of holding the Annual Seminar will be met from existing budgets.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Training is particularly important this year so that District and Parish Councillors can comply with the revised requirements.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices – None