



**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:  
1 November 2007**

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**Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor**

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

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**SUBJECT: OCCASIONAL PAPER – PREDISPOSITION, PREDETERMINATION  
OR BIAS, AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

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District wide interest

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise members of the receipt of an Occasional Paper and Counsel's advice from the Standards Board for England.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the contents of the Occasional Paper, Counsel's advice and the factsheet be noted and these documents be brought to the attention of all members.

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**3.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION**

3.1 Pre-determination and bias have proved to be difficult and controversial issues. The Standards Board has therefore published a paper to help clarify the issues. A copy of the paper and Counsel's advice are attached as Appendix 1. On a related issue the Board have prepared a factsheet on lobby groups and declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct. A copy of the factsheet is attached as Appendix 2.

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

4.1 There are no significant sustainability or community strategy implications.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from the report.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

6.1 It is important that members understand the issues relating to pre-determination and bias to ensure proper decision making and reduce the risk of legal challenge

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#### **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.

#### **Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Occasional Paper – Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias, and the Code

Appendix 2 – Lobby Groups and Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct.