

Agenda item: 10

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE PANEL

25 JULY 2005

Report by the Clerk

REVIEW OF THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose of report

1 To consider whether a response should be submitted by the Executive Panel to the Assembly Government's consultation paper and draft legislation.

Background

2 The code of conduct has been reviewed by a group which reported in July 2004, although the report and draft order that would implement its recommendations were published for consultation only on 28 April 2005. A copy of the consultation document and other documents may be seen at

www.wales.gov.uk/subilocalgov/content/consultation/conduct/part3/letter-e.htm

3 The Standards Committee considered the matter in depth on 1 July and has submitted the attached response.

Advice

4 In general, the proposed legislation offers welcome clarification – for example, by placing the principles and code of conduct in the same statutory instrument and by creating the distinction between personal and prejudicial interests. However some of the proposals are not considered to be entirely practical, such as the requirement for interests to be declared both orally during a meeting and in writing before or immediately after the meeting ends.

5 Whatever order is made by the Assembly in due course will require the Authority to amend its code of conduct. A report to seek the necessary resolutions from the Authority would be brought forward accordingly.

Recommendation

6 The Panel is invited to consider whether it wishes to submit a response to the Assembly Government's consultation paper.