



Local Government Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 22

PART III

CONDUCT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER I

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

Standards of conduct

49 Principles governing conduct of members of relevant authorities

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order specify the principles which are to govern the conduct of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities in England and police authorities in Wales.
- (2) The National Assembly for Wales may by order specify the principles which are to govern the conduct of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities in Wales (other than police authorities).
- (3) Before making an order under this section, the Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) such representatives of relevant authorities in England as he considers appropriate,
 - (b) the Audit Commission,
 - (c) the Commission for Local Administration in England, and
 - (d) such other persons (if any) as he considers appropriate.
- (4) Before making an order under this section so far as it relates to police authorities in Wales, the Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) such representatives of police authorities in Wales as he considers appropriate,
 - (b) the Commission for Local Administration in Wales, and

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- (c) the National Assembly for Wales.
- (5) Before making an order under this section, the National Assembly for Wales must consult—
- (a) such representatives of relevant authorities in Wales as it considers appropriate,
 - (b) the Audit Commission,
 - (c) the Commission for Local Administration in Wales, and
 - (d) such other persons (if any) as it considers appropriate.
- (6) In this Part “relevant authority” means—
- (a) a county council,
 - (b) a county borough council,
 - (c) a district council,
 - (d) a London borough council,
 - (e) a parish council,
 - (f) a community council,
 - (g) the Greater London Authority,
 - (h) the Metropolitan Police Authority,
 - (i) the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority,
 - (j) the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority or police authority,
 - (k) the Council of the Isles of Scilly,
 - (l) a fire authority constituted by a combination scheme under the Fire Services Act 1947,
 - (m) a police authority,
 - (n) a joint authority established by Part IV of the Local Government Act 1985,
 - (o) the Broads Authority, or
 - (p) a National Park authority established under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995.
- (7) In this Part “co-opted member”, in relation to a relevant authority, means a person who is not a member of the authority but who—
- (a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or
 - (b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority,
- and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

50 Model code of conduct

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order issue a model code as regards the conduct which is expected of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities in England and police authorities in Wales (referred to in this Part as a model code of conduct).
- (2) The National Assembly for Wales may by order issue a model code as regards the conduct which is expected of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities in Wales other than police authorities (also referred to in this Part as a model code of conduct).

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- (3) The power under subsection (1) or (2) to issue a model code of conduct includes power to revise any such model code which has been issued.
- (4) A model code of conduct—
 - (a) must be consistent with the principles for the time being specified in an order under section 49(1) or 49(2) (as the case may be),
 - (b) may include provisions which are mandatory, and
 - (c) may include provisions which are optional.
- (5) Before making an order under this section, the Secretary of State or the National Assembly for Wales must carry out such consultation as is required, by virtue of section 49, before an order is made under that section.
- (6) For the purpose of facilitating the making of an order under this section, the Secretary of State may invite such body as he considers appropriate to draw up, and send to him, a proposed model code of conduct or proposed revisions to such a model code.
- (7) An invitation under subsection (6)—
 - (a) must be made in writing,
 - (b) may be made to more than one body,
 - (c) may be limited to particular descriptions of authority,
 - (d) must specify the period within which the proposals are to be drawn up and sent to the Secretary of State,
 - (e) may require different proposals to be drawn up for different authorities or descriptions of authority, and
 - (f) may require any body to which the invitation is made to consult such persons as may be specified in the invitation.

51 Duty of relevant authorities to adopt codes of conduct

- (1) It is the duty of a relevant authority, before the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which the first order under section 50 which applies to them is made, to pass a resolution adopting a code as regards the conduct which is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority (referred to in this Part as a code of conduct).
- (2) It is the duty of a relevant authority, before the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which any subsequent order under section 50 which applies to them is made, to pass a resolution—
 - (a) adopting a code of conduct in place of their existing code of conduct under this section, or
 - (b) revising their existing code of conduct under this section.
- (3) A relevant authority may by resolution—
 - (a) adopt a code of conduct in place of their existing code of conduct under this section, or
 - (b) revise their existing code of conduct under this section.
- (4) A code of conduct or revised code of conduct—
 - (a) must incorporate any mandatory provisions of the model code of conduct which for the time being applies to that authority,
 - (b) may incorporate any optional provisions of that model code, and

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- (c) may include other provisions which are consistent with that model code.
- (5) Where a relevant authority fail to comply with the duty under subsection (1) or (2) before the end of the period mentioned in that subsection—
 - (a) they must comply with that duty as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of that period, and
 - (b) any mandatory provisions of the model code of conduct which for the time being applies to the authority are to apply in relation to the members and co-opted members of the authority for so long as the authority fail to comply with that duty.
- (6) As soon as reasonably practicable after adopting or revising a code of conduct under this section, a relevant authority must—
 - (a) ensure that copies of the code or revised code are available at an office of the authority for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours,
 - (b) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in their area a notice which—
 - (i) states that they have adopted or revised a code of conduct,
 - (ii) states that copies of the code or revised code are available at an office of the authority for inspection by members of the public at such times as may be specified in the notice, and
 - (iii) specifies the address of that office, and
 - (c) send a copy of the code or revised code—
 - (i) in the case of a relevant authority in England or a police authority in Wales, to the Standards Board for England,
 - (ii) in the case of a relevant authority in Wales, to the Commission for Local Administration in Wales.
- (7) Where a relevant authority themselves publish a newspaper, the duty to publish a notice under subsection (6)(b) is to be construed as a duty to publish that notice in their newspaper and at least one other newspaper circulating in their area.
- (8) A relevant authority may publicise their adoption or revision of a code of conduct under this section in any other manner that they consider appropriate.
- (9) A relevant authority’s function with respect to the passing of a resolution under this section may be discharged only by the authority (and accordingly, in the case of a relevant authority to which section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 applies, is not to be a function to which that section applies).

52 Duty to comply with code of conduct

- (1) A person who is a member or co-opted member of a relevant authority at a time when the authority adopt a code of conduct under section 51 for the first time—
 - (a) must, before the end of the period of two months beginning with the date on which the code of conduct is adopted, give to the authority a written undertaking that in performing his functions he will observe the authority’s code of conduct for the time being under section 51, and
 - (b) if he fails to do so, is to cease to be a member or co-opted member at the end of that period.
- (2) The form of declaration of acceptance of office which may be prescribed by an order under section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972 may include an undertaking by

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the declarant that in performing his functions he will observe the authority's code of conduct for the time being under section 51.

- (3) A person who becomes a member of a relevant authority to which section 83 of that Act does not apply at any time after the authority have adopted a code of conduct under section 51 for the first time may not act in that office unless he has given the authority a written undertaking that in performing his functions he will observe the authority's code of conduct for the time being under section 51.
- (4) A person who becomes a co-opted member of a relevant authority at any time after the authority have adopted a code of conduct under section 51 for the first time may not act as such unless he has given the authority a written undertaking that in performing his functions he will observe the authority's code of conduct for the time being under section 51.