

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	30 April 2012
Title:	Localism Act 2011 – Revised Standards Arrangements - Update
Reference:	3882
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Andrew Smith/Barbara Beardwell

Tel: 01962 845252/845157 **Email:** Andrew.j.smith@hants.gov.uk
Barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1 That the Cabinet

- a) Note the emerging position with regard to revised Standards arrangements in consequence of the Localism Act.
- b) Approve the direction of travel in respect of revised Standards arrangements and the establishment of a 'task and finish' group in order to inform a report to full Council.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

2.1. Section 7 of the Localism Act contains revised arrangements in respect of a Members' Code of Conduct, which the County Council is required to adopt, and the registration and disclosure of Members' interests.

2.2. The Standards Board for England was abolished on 1 April 2012. It is expected that on the 'appointed day' (expected to be 1 July 2012), the remaining parts of the Localism Act, which relate to Standards, will be implemented, although it is possible that there could be a transitional period whereby the existing Members' Code of Conduct would continue to apply. Once implemented however, the County Council's existing Members' Code of Conduct contained within the Constitution will cease to have effect, as will the requirement on Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council to undertake to comply with the Code of Conduct. The existing regime in respect of the registration and disclosure of Members' interests will also be abolished, as will the existing Standards Committee and functions which, under the current legislation, are required to be exercised by Standards Committees. It will still be necessary for the County Council to have in place

arrangements to deal with allegations that a Member may be in breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. None.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

30 April 2012

**Chairman of the Cabinet
Councillor T K Thornber, CBE**