

**Minute 5 of the Constitution Committee Meeting  
held on the 9 July 2014**

**5. OFFICERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Democracy and Governance Manager introduced a report to consider a revised and updated officers' code of conduct as part of the ongoing review of the Council's Constitution. He advised that in undertaking the review of the Constitution the guiding principles had been to update to reflect current arrangements, avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and ambiguity of wording.

The Democracy and Governance Manager referred to the main considerations in the report and gave a summary of the changes to the Officers' Code. He said there had been wide consultation on the document and the Trade Unions had welcomed the proposed changes.

The Chairman invited Members to review the draft revised officers' code of conduct which was appended to the report and put forward any further comments or changes.

The Democracy and Governance Manager advised that the reference to Head of Legal and Democratic Services in paragraph 2.1 would be replaced by 'the Chief Officer (Governance)' following the recent appointment to that position.

Councillor Bernie Attridge queried the proposed removal of paragraphs 8.11 and 8.12 relating to disclosing membership of freemasonry

Councillor Clive Carver declared that he had a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting at this point.

Councillor Bernie Attridge proposed that paragraphs 8.11 and 8.12 be retained from the previous version and asked that this be recommended by the Committee to the next available meeting of the County Council. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Paul Shotton and agreed..

Councillor Clive Carver returned to the meeting.

Councillor Attridge queried the removal of paragraphs 8.17, 8.18 and 8.19 on page 34. The Democracy and Governance Manager responded to the questions raised and reiterated the need to remove ambiguity. He provided clarification and explained that paragraph 9.4 now addressed the issue of acceptance by employees of hospitality less ambiguously.

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft revised Officers' Code of Conduct be approved subject to:

- (a) That the reference to Head of Legal and Democratic Services in paragraph 2.1 of the draft revised officers' code of conduct be replaced by 'the Chief Officer (Governance)'; and
- (b) That the Committee recommends to the next meeting of the County Council that paragraphs 8.11 and 8.12 be reinstated from the previous version of the officers' code of conduct.

Councillor Clive Carver abstained from voting.