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**REPORT AUTHOR:** SECRETARY/MONITORING OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT

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Background Papers: None

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Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL	✓	FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New	CORE BRIEF	

*Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.*

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**PURPOSE:**

To review the Authority's Code of Conduct.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee decides whether any amendments should be made to the FRA's Code of Conduct and, if so, recommends these to the Authority.

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1 Introduction

1.1 At its meetings on 14 June and 28 September 2017 the Committee reviewed the FRA's Code of Conduct and referred amendments that were proposed to the Code to the FRA for determination. A copy of the Code of Conduct is attached as Appendix A.

1.2 On 16 October 2017 the FRA decided to remove paragraphs 4.14 and 4.15 (referenced below) from the Code and asked the Committee to undertake a wider review of the Code:-

- 4.14 *Members must act in a way that enhances public trust and confidence in the integrity of the FRA and its Members.*

- 4.15 *Members must show respect and courtesy to others.*

1.3 The existing Code of Conduct was adopted by the FRA in June 2012 in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and came into force on 1 July 2012. The Code has been reviewed annually since then but until now the basic structure and contents of the Code have remained unchanged.

## 2. The Statutory Requirements

2.1 The Localism Act 2011 provides that the FRA must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members. It must adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. The code adopted by the FRA when viewed as a whole must be consistent with the Seven Principles of Public Life (“the Nolan Principles”). A copy of these principles is attached as Appendix B. The code must also include provisions regarding the registration and disclosure of pecuniary and other interests.

## 3. Guidance

3.1 The thrust behind the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 was the Government’s view that the previous statutory arrangements were too prescriptive and that authorities should have discretion to adopt a code of conduct that suited them. The Government did not prescribe a model code. However, shortly after the Localism Act came into force the Government did publish a note containing illustrative text. A copy of this illustrative text is attached as Appendix C.

3.2 In effect, the provisions of the FRA’s existing Code and the Government’s illustrative text are very similar.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 Members are invited to consider the provisions of the FRA’s existing Code of Conduct and decide whether there are any aspects that would benefit from amendment.

**JOHN ATKINSON  
SECRETARY/MONITORING OFFICER**

**Appendices:  
A Existing BFRA Code of Conduct  
B 7 Principals of Public Life  
B Illustrative Text for Code of Conduct**