

29 MARCH 2000

**ELEMENTS OF THE CURRENT ETHICAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH
MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL WORKS.**

Officers:

Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

Hospitality Register

Benefits Fraud Code

IT and Telephone User Security Policy

Professional codes

Planning Code of Conduct

Standing Orders

Financial Regulations and Financial Procedures

Framework for dealing with allegations of fraud

Contracts Handbook

Relevant legislation and Council policies e.g. Equalities (gender, disability and race, etc), Data Protection, Human Rights Act

Members:

Standards Committee - has agreed procedures for dealing with complaints against members - these will need to be reviewed as legislation changes under new democratic structures.

Local Code of Conduct - will need to be reviewed in the light of national changes.

National Code of Conduct - to be revised by Central Government shortly.

Planning Code of Conduct.

Standing Orders.

Relevant legislation especially Section 94 of the Local Government Act 1972 which makes it a criminal offence for members not to declare an interest in 'some matters' e.g. contracts, and also covers members' spouses.

Members, when elected, sign to say that they agree to abide by both the National and Local Codes, and receive copies of these in the Induction Pack. The implications are discussed in detail at the induction sessions.

Annually, members have to complete the statutory Notice of Registrable Interests and the voluntary declaration of interests. However, it is the responsibility of members to declare relevant interests at individual committee meetings - this is not monitored by officers.

An annual report is made on the numbers of members who have not returned these forms.

Business Ethics:

Environmental Auditing - LA Environmental Policy

Ethical Investments - political imperative of all service delivery, equalities

Quality Assurance - Best Value Performance Plan, Quality Management

Good employer - employee welfare, equal opportunities

Officers, Members and the Public:

Whistle Blowing Hotline