

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

## APPENDIX 2

Department of the Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Robert Tinlin Chief Executive & Town Clerk  
David Andrews Borough Treasurer & Deputy Chief Executive  
John Williams Deputy Town Clerk & Monitoring Officer

Your ref: Mr P Rowsell Direct Dial: 01702 215102  
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Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006

### First Class

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
Mr P. Rowsell  
Head of Democracy and Local Governance  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

Dear Sir

### **Re: Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future**

Thank you for your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005

The Council's Standards Committee considered the above Consultation Paper at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and makes the following comments:

1. The proposed changes to the Code of Conduct are supported, particularly the clarification and simplification of the provisions relating to personal and prejudicial interests and also the proposal to remove the duty on Members to whistle-blow in respect of their colleagues.
2. The proposal to move to a more locally based regime, so that the Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer will filter and then deal with the vast majority of cases, is not supported. The public are unlikely to have confidence in a system which is not independent and the difficulties of dealing with politically controversial cases, as well as the resource implications, should not be under-estimated.
3. The proposals relating to Politically Restricted Posts and political assistants seem reasonable.
4. A standard Code of Conduct for Employees is supported.

Yours faithfully,

J. K. Williams  
Deputy Town Clerk and Monitoring Officer