Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

APPENDIX 2

Department of the Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Robert Tinlin

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

David Andrews John Williams

Borough Treasurer & Deputy Chief Executive Deputy Town Clerk & Monitoring Officer

Your ref: Mr P Rowsell

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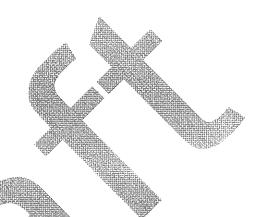
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Date:

2nd 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 15th December 2005

The Council's Standards Committee considered the above Consultation Paper at its meeting on 20th 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 confroversial cases, as well as the resource implications, should not be under-estimated.
- The proposals relating to Politically Restricted Posts and political assistants seem reasonable. 3
- A standard Code of Conduct for Employees is supported.

Yours faithfully,

J. K. Williams Deputy Town Clerk and Monitoring Officer