



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

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Action Plan



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October 2006  
Department for Communities and Local Government: London

On 5th May 2006 the responsibilities of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

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Actions taken or proposed	Reason for the Action	Action Type (Guidance, regulation, amendment of the policy itself, etc.)	Timing	Responsibility
<b>Changes made (or to be made) prior to publication of the White Paper:</b> Changes that have been/are to be made to policy as a result of the Impact Assessment				
Guidance to authorities on handling misconduct allegations to include good practice on equality issues.	To ensure equality issues are reflected in the way authorities handle allegations of misconduct.	Guidance	Guidance to precede introduction of revised regime.	Standards Board/DCLG.
Provision for the monitoring of the race equality impact of the new regime, and intervention by the Standards Board if necessary, as part of LA performance assessment, accreditation of monitoring officers, and monitoring of operation of the appeals process.	To check that no negative impacts follow from the implementation of the proposals.	Monitoring	To coincide with the introduction of the new regime.	Standards Board/DCLG.
The Standards Board to host 2 or 3 focus groups involving BME councillors to consider the equality impact of the proposals.	To broaden the consultation base.	Consultation	Later this year.	Standards Board/DCLG.
<b>Mitigation:</b> For areas where a policy will proceed but is likely to have a differential impact on certain groups, what arrangements are in place or proposed to mitigate these effects				
Mitigation measures providing for guidance, monitoring and intervention by the Standards Board will be put in place, as above.				
<b>Justification:</b> For areas where a policy may impact negatively (but not illegally) on certain groups but mitigation is not possible (e.g. where there is an overriding societal driver for proceeding with a policy) there needs to be a strategy for handling issues of unfairness. If the negative impact is illegal, the policy will have to be changed or abandoned.				
None.				
<b>Opportunities:</b> Please state actions designed to maximise positive effects – i.e. where opportunities are identified for: promoting equality, good relations between groups or knowledge about groups; increasing civic and democratic participation; or addressing current inequalities				
The requirement for increased local ownership of the ethical regime could make it possible for local concerns, eg on racial issues, to be more sensitively handled. Guidance and monitoring will seek to identify and encourage good practice to promote positive improvements.	To maximise opportunities for promoting equality.	Guidance, monitoring and intervention if necessary to ensure fairness.	Before and after implementation of new regime.	Standards Board/DCLG.