

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Date: 18 October 2000

Subject: **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Report of: Chief Executive

Recommendations:

1. To endorse and follow the attached Code of Conduct.
2. To invite members of the Committee and those participating in its business to register with the secretariat those interests that they feel they ought to register, given the guidance in the Code of Conduct.

-
1. High standards of probity are expected of those in public life. The Nolan and Neill Committees on Standards in Public Life have laid down very clear expectations of those who participate in public affairs. The Local Government Act 2000 sets out clear new provisions covering standards of conduct to which all elected councillors are subject.
 2. While not a local government body as such, the Assembly is nevertheless a public organisation that will, in its role as Regional Planning Body, be performing an important and sometimes controversial public function. It behoves all Members of the Assembly therefore to uphold the standards expected by Nolan and Neill, and the Assembly constitution explicitly requires that. However the Planning Committee in particular must be seen to be above any suspicion that sectional or personal interests could influence the recommendations it makes to the Assembly and to Government.
 3. The attached Code of Conduct has been drawn up with this aim. It follows a similar code prepared for the East of England Regional Planning Panel, which in turn follows the National Local Government Code of Conduct.

4. An important element of the Code is the Register of Interests that the secretariat will hold. This will be open for public inspection. Members of the Committee are invited to register those interests that they feel should be registered in view of the guidance set out in the Code of Conduct.

Paul Bevan
Chief Executive

8 October 2000