

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BOARD MEMBERS

This paper invites the Board to adopt the Standards Commission Model Code of Conduct for Members of Public Bodies: "The Members' Model Code".

Action/Notes

BACKGROUND

The Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 establishes a framework for securing the observance of high standards of conduct by councillors and other persons holding public appointments. It further provides for new Codes of Conduct for local authority councillors and members of relevant public bodies.

The Standards Commission has now published the "Members' Model Code". As a public body, VisitScotland has a duty to help its members to comply with the relevant code. Although the existing VisitScotland Code of Practice for Board Members covers the requirements of the Model Code, the Standards Commission for Scotland, which is responsible for overseeing the new framework, has insisted that VisitScotland should adopt the Code in order to ensure consistency among public bodies.

The general principles of the Code are based on:

- Public service
- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability and Stewardship
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership
- Respect

A copy of the Members' Model Code of Conduct is attached for information.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to adopt the standard Members' Model Code of Conduct.

For approval at the Board Meeting to be held on 5 December 2002.

Corporate Services
25 November 2002