Committee:	**STANDARDS**		**Agenda Item**
Date:	**March 22 2010**		**8**
Title:	**CONFIDENTIALITY**		
Author:	**Michael Perry, Assistant Chief Executive, 01799 510416**		Item for decision

Summary

1. This report reminds members of changes to the Code of Conduct in connection with the issue of information received in confidence and will be accompanied by a short Powerpoint presentation.

Recommendations

2. Members decide what guidance (if any) they wish to give to members on the subject of confidentiality.

Background Papers

3. None.

Impact

4.

Communication/Consultation	None.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	None.
Health and Safety	None.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	As contained in this report.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

5. Prior to 2007 the Code of Conduct provided that members must not disclose information given to them in confidence by anyone or information acquired which the members believed to be of a confidential nature without the consent of the person authorised to give it or unless required by law to do so. The 2007 Code of Conduct introduced two additional circumstances where disclosure of confidential information is permitted. The first of these is where the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice providing that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person or where the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest and made in good faith in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority.

6. I will give members a brief Powerpoint presentation on the issue of confidentiality and thereafter will seek members' views in accordance with the recommendations to this report.

Risk Analysis

7. There are no risks attached to this report but there may be opportunities to assist members in observing Code of Conduct which is a statutory function of this committee.

Author: Michael Perry
Version date: 1 March 2010
Item 8/2