



Report to Standards Committee

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Author: S M Sale - Head of Legal and Democratic Services

1. Review of the Members Code of Conduct

The Standards Board for England is undertaking a review of the Code of Conduct and has issued a consultation document. The document is attached at **Appendix 1**. The Committee are requested to consider their response to the consultation exercise.

2. Standards Board Annual Conference

The Standards Board Fourth Annual Conference will be held on September 5 and 6 September, 2005.

Members are requested to consider nomination of a delegate to the Conference.

3. Future Work Load

The Standards Committee's remit is included in the Council's Constitution. A copy is attached at **Appendix 2** for ease of reference. Members are requested to consider the workload for the Committee for the coming year and in particular the following issues are suggested for consideration:

- (a) Member training.
- (b) Member/Officer Protocol - a model protocol published by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors is attached at **Appendix 3** for information;
- (c) Licensing Act Committee Members' Protocol.
- (d) Parish Council issues.
- (e) Role and profile of the Standards Committee with particular reference to Members and the public.

Information Items

4. Standards Board Investigations

Two Parish Councillors were reported to the Standards Board for failure to complete the form of Register of Interests.

The Ethical Standards Officer concluded in one case that there had been a failure to comply with the Code but that no action was required because the Councillor had resigned.

In the other case, the Ethical Standards Officer found that the form of Interests had not been returned within the 28 days of appointment but that no action need be taken provided the form was then completed and lodged with the Borough Council. This has subsequently been done.

The Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council will have a Standards Committee.

9.02 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the members and an co-opted members of the council;
- (b) assisting members and any co-opted members of the Council to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising, training or arranging to train members and any co-opted members of the council on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) granting dispensations to members and any co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the monitoring officer on any matter which is referred by an ethical standards officer to the monitoring officer.
- (h) performing the functions set out in (a) - (g) above in respect of the parish councils in the Borough.