

“A CODE FOR THE FUTURE”: SBE CONSULTATION ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To seek the Committee's views in relation to the National Review of the Code of Conduct.

Background

2. The Code of Conduct for Local Government was introduced three years ago and the legislative framework is now in place including local hearings and local investigations.
3. The Standards Board for England have been asked to conduct a review of the content of the Code by the Right Honourable Nick Raynsford MP, Minister of State for Local and Regional Government. The Board state that they

“aim to ensure that the Code of Conduct is an easily understood living document that takes into account the realities of serving local communities as a member of a local authority.”

Consultation Process

4. The Standards Board for England is seeking responses to the Code by the **17 June 2005** to enable them to make recommendations for change to the Government over the summer.
5. A leaflet has been prepared for Standards Committee Members which has already been circulated to members of the Committee for comment. The formal consultation paper is enclosed with this Agenda.
6. The consultation seeks views on the 29 aspects of the Code which are set out in Appendix A with proposed responses.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee considers and approves the draft response as set out in the Appendix to this Report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Marie Rosenthal, County Secretary and Solicitor on (01432) 260200