

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<i>DATE</i>	<b>22 APRIL 2004</b>
<i>TITLE OF REPORT</i>	<b>CONSULTATION ON STANDARDS PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE</b>
<i>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</i>	<b>Mark Bowen, assistant director, legal and contract services</b>

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To respond to a consultation exercise being undertaken on behalf of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The committee instructs the monitoring officer to make an appropriate response to the questionnaire submitted on behalf of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

**3 DECISION ISSUES**

- 3.1 The constitution gives the Standards Committee a leading role in ensuring high standards of conduct and governance at Medway. It is therefore the appropriate body to respond to the consultation exercise.

**4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On 19 March, a questionnaire was circulated to monitoring officers and chairmen of Standards Committees on behalf of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The Committee has invited the Institute of Public Finance to contribute towards the committee’s research programme.
- 4.2 The questionnaire will be discussed (on a non-attributable basis) at a series of ethical standards workshops during June. The workshops will also be used to keep local authorities informed on the deliberations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
- 4.3 The appendix to this report sets out the questions and where appropriate some suggested indicative answers. Although the deadline for returns is 22 April, given the fact that this meeting takes place on that date the monitoring officer has been able to obtain an extension of time for submitting the questionnaire return.

## **5 LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The key legal implications are set out in the body of the report and the appendix.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Email and questionnaire from the Better Governance Forum.