

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
<i>DATE</i>	THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2002
<i>TITLE OF REPORT</i>	MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – FURTHER GUIDANCE ON DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS
<i>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</i>	Mark Bowen, Assistant Director, Legal and Contract Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The National Code of Conduct for Members changes the way in which Members' interests are declared at meetings and registered on the formal Register of Interests. At its meeting on 22 May the Committee requested that more information and guidance be provided for Parish Councillors. This is provided in the appendix to the report.

2. DECISION ISSUES

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Standards Committee includes:
- “To assist the Council and Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct”.
- 2.2 The provision of a guidance to Members on declaring interests will facilitate good practice and be within the remit of this Committee.

3. RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee agree to include the advice below for Parish councillors with that discussed at the previous meeting and agree to its circulation to all Medway Councillors and Parish Clerks.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 After adoption of the Code of Conduct there is an obligation on Members to comply with it. The production of guidance on the declaration of interests will assist Members to comply with their duties under the Code of Conduct.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None, save for the cost of distributing the guidance if adopted by this Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Guidance from the Standards Board.