

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
<i>DATE</i>	WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2002
<i>TITLE OF REPORT</i>	MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – GUIDANCE ON DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
<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. The Standards Board has recently prepared guidance on declaration of interests by members.
- 1.2 It is appropriate for the Standards Committee to take the lead in producing guidance on this matter for Members of Medway Council and Parishes. A copy of draft guidance is appended to the report which incorporates good practice identified elsewhere into the guidance produced by the Standards Board.

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 production of a guide 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- 3.1 That the Committee adopt the draft guidance appended to this report and agree to its circulation to all Medway councillors and parish clerks.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 The cost of distributing the guidance if adopted by this Committee can be met within existing budgets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Guidance from the Standards Board.