

**To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers**

**From COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT**

Ask for Ron Coxall
Ext 25540
My Ref RNC/ES
Your Ref

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
18 JANUARY 2002**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

P Aylett, Y Batliwala (Chairman), C Boseley, R Fletcher

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

J T Metcalf, S J Mills

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

For Item 3 - R I N Gordon, A Lee, C J White

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Standards Committee meeting held on 18 January 2002 as circulated, copy annexed, action was taken or decisions were reached on individual items as recorded below:

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2001 were confirmed.

The County Secretary reported that he had sought to clarify with the Standards Board the points raised by the Committee at their last meeting. The Board had replied saying that they were not able to give guidance on individual matters, but that they would take the Committee's comments into account when issuing further guidance.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee considered the draft Code together with comments received during the consultation period. They were particularly grateful to County Councillor Mays for his views.

Having taken account of views expressed, the Committee made several textual amendments, including the tidying up of cross-referencing numbers.

They also agreed to insert the words, "an officer or" in 14(e), and agreed to recommend to the Council that, subject to any legal restraints, the Register of Members' interests should be published on the Council's website and that every Member be urged to give consent to their entry being included therein.

There was general concern about the National Model Code wording which had to be included, relating to declarations of hospitality and gifts over the value of £25. Whilst the Committee were unable to amend the Model Code wording, they asked the County Secretary to ensure that Members were made aware that this should only apply where they were performing official duties, and should not include birthday or Christmas presents from relatives or personal friends.

AGREED to recommend to the Council on 14 February 2002:

1. That, subject to minor textual amendments, the draft Code of Conduct circulated with the agenda be approved for adoption by the Council.
2. That the Register of Members' interests be made available on the County Council website and that every County Councillor be urged to consent to their individual details being included therein.

3. MEMBER PROPRIETY ISSUE

The Committee had been requested by a Member to investigate a matter relating to another Member.

Having read the papers circulated with the agenda, the Committee decided not to investigate the matter.

4. STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE

The County Secretary mentioned that he had been approached by the Standards Board seeking views on a conference they were proposing to organise in June. The Committee agreed that, if possible, all six Members of the Committee should attend, along with the Monitoring Officer. If that were not possible, the Chairman and two other Members (one Councillor, one independent) should attend. It was agreed that the training of members, which was the responsibility of the Committee, be held once that seminar had taken place.

ANDREW LAYCOCK
County Secretary