

**ETHICAL STANDARDS – IN YOUR HANDS**  
**(Report by the Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm which Members of the Committee will attend the Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees Conference, which is to take place at the International Conference Centre (ICC) Birmingham on 5th and 6th September 2005.
- 1.2 Following the last meeting (Minute No 28 refers), five conference places have been reserved for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, a representative of the Opposition Group, an Independent Member and a Town/Parish Council representative (or their nominees).

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will recall that the conference provides an opportunity for Monitoring Officers, Members of Standards Committees and other local government professionals to discuss key issues and on this occasion the conference, to be entitled “In Your Hands”, will focus on the work of Standards Committees within local government and use the opportunity to
  - ◆ examine both good and bad practice;
  - ◆ identify areas for improvement within authorities;
  - ◆ look beyond the scope of the Standards Committee statutory remit;
  - ◆ focus on the relationship between Members and their communities;and
  - ◆ consider what further support and guidance is needed.
- 2.2 The Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for Local and Regional Government is to open the conference by setting out his vision for local government. Sir Alistair Graham, Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, will follow with a report on the Committee’s Tenth Enquiry and subsequent developments. Other speakers confirmed to attend include Jacquie Dean, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, Tim Minogue, editor of Private Eye’s Rotten Boroughs column and Professor Gerry Stoker from the Institute for Political and Economic Governance at the University of Manchester. All will be taking part in the big debate asking, “Will the Public ever trust local government?”

**3. CONCLUSION**

The Committee is requested to confirm the attendance of Members at the Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards Committee Conference.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Leaflet detailing the content of the Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees Conference.

Bulletin Number 23–Standards Board for England

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th March 2005.

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