

**CODE OF CONDUCT – STANDARDS BOARD NOTIFICATION  
(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Standards Board for England for the investigation of allegations, the Monitoring Officer has been notified of the Board's decision in respect of an allegation made against a Councillor serving on the District Council.

**2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 It had been alleged that a District Councillor had brought his office into disrepute and had improperly sought to secure an advantage at forthcoming District Council elections by referring to the employment of a consultant "to make sure that electors ticked the correct boxes" to assist with publicity for the scheme for a new headquarters building for the District Council. Officers and colleague Councillors witnessed the remark.
- 2.2 In response, the Standards Board for England were of the view that Members were entitled to express their views on matters even though these might be at variance with others. In the circumstances described the Board considered that the alleged conduct (even if it were bound to have occurred) would not have involved any failure to comply with the Authority's Code of Conduct.
- 2.3 Given this conclusion, the Board found that no further action needed to be taken.

**3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to note that the Standards Board for England has agreed not to take any further action in relation to the allegation.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter received from Standards Board for England dated 22nd March 2006.

**Contact Officer:** Christine Deller, Democratic Services Manager  
☎ 01480 388007