

- 89% are confident that their authority is doing a good job of upholding standards
- Four times as many agree as disagree that 'member's standards of behaviour have improved over recent times.'

Results also show that 77% think the Standards Board has been successful in defining standards of behaviour for councillors, an increase of 12% since 2004.

The Standards Board is also seen to be more successful in improving the reputation of local government amongst the public, and those who are satisfied with the work of the organisation has grown by 17% since 2004.

Dr Robert Chilton, the Chair of the Standards Board said: "This is a very encouraging set of results. At a time when public trust in politicians is under serious challenge, and standards matter more than ever, they show that local government is leading the way, embracing the high standards of conduct, transparency and accountability that the public has every right to expect.

"The Standards Board will continue to support authorities in this essential work, providing the expert, independent national scrutiny needed to protect standards and boost public confidence in local democracy."

**Ends.**

**For media enquiries, contact the press office on 0161 817 5400 or email [press.enquiries@standardsboard.gov.uk](mailto:press.enquiries@standardsboard.gov.uk).**

#### **Notes for editors**

- The Code of Conduct was first introduced in 2001 and the system to deal with complaints about local politicians was overhauled in 2008, when local authorities took full responsibility for assessing and managing complaints, guided and supported by the Standards Board.
- The Standards Board monitoring reports show that between 8 May 2008 and 30 April 2009 authorities received 2,863 complaints. 54% were made by members of the public, 4% by council officers and 36% by councillors.
- Every two years the Standards Board surveys the levels of satisfaction of local government with the performance of the Standards Board and their attitudes to the ethical environment. The survey was first undertaken in 2004 and was repeated in 2007. The latest survey was conducted between 15 January and 9 March 2009.
- A self-completion postal questionnaire was used to collect the views of stakeholders from all types of local government authority in England, including principal authorities, town and parish councils, and police, park and fire authorities. The survey included elected and non-elected members, monitoring officers and parish clerks.
- In total, 3,784 questionnaires were distributed across 473 principal councils and police, park and fire authorities, and 1,758 questionnaires were distributed across 879 town and parish councils.

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