



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Standards Board – 21 September 2011

Activity Report of the Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

This report provides a brief update on current Monitoring Officer activity and ethical matters as requested by the board for each meeting.

1.0 Parish and Town Activity

- 1.1 Since the board met on 27 June 2011, 14 enquiries have been recorded from parish and town clerks and councillors, district councillors and the general public, mainly seeking advice on personal and prejudicial interests
- 1.2 Changes to the town and parish council registers of interest continue as vacancies arise and are filled. There are currently 39 vacancies around the district.
- 1.3 At the time of writing this report Register of Interests have been received from all district councillors and approximately 70% of town and parish councillors. The appropriate clerks have been contacted to remind councillors of the statutory need to complete these forms and chasing action will be maintained until 100% response is received.

2 Complaints

- 2.1 One complaint, requiring Monitoring Officer action, should be completed by the time of the board's September meeting and a verbal update will be given at the meeting.
- 2.2 No new complaints have been received at the time of writing this report although discussions indicate that public expectations of high standards of councillor behaviour and interest in the complaints process remains strong.

3 Training

- 3.1 The second joint NCALC and ENC training session for new councillors took place on 14 July 2011 and 34 councillors attended from 14 town and parish councils.

4. Localism Bill

- 4.1 Debate continues around several aspects of this bill, including standards aspects. The latest intelligence suggests that the Bill is not likely to be enacted before April 2012.
- 4.2 It appears that the ACSeS draft model code of conduct for councillors will be available in the new two months. This will be circulated to board members for information as soon as it is available.

Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
	Other considerations: Localism Bill
Background Papers:	
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Date: 26/8/11					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)