



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Joint Standards Complaints Committee – 6 July 2015

Activity Report of the Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report: This regular report provides a brief update on Monitoring Officer activity since the last meeting

Attachment(s)

1.0 Registers of Interest

- 1.1 Following the May elections, there has been a good level of returns of new Registers of Interest from all councillors. At the time of writing this report, 74% of Town and Parish councillors have returned their forms. There are, however, six parish councils for which no returns have yet been received so initial efforts have been concentrated on these. A reminder letter will be sent to all councillors who have not returned a register by the date of the committee.
- 1.2 The majority of ENC councillors have returned their forms and it is anticipated that they will all be completed by the date of this committee.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that all completed Registers will be uploaded by the end of July to the ENC website, from which they will be linked to town and parish council websites. An audit of these links will be undertaken over the summer holiday and the results reported back to the next committee.

2.0 Monitoring Officer enquiries

- 2.1 Since the Committee last met on 16 March the Monitoring Officer has received 13 enquiries relating to standards issues.

3.0 Complaints

- 3.1 There has been only one new town and parish council complaint received since the last report.

4 Code of Conduct

- 4.1 In total, 14 Town and Parish Councils have now notified the Monitoring Officer that they have adopted the revised 2014 code. The appropriate web page has been amended to reflect the latest position for each council.

5 Member Induction 2015

- 5.1 As planned, a joint training session on the standards regimen and essential skills for being a successful town or parish councillor, jointly presented by the Monitoring Officer and Chief Executive of NCALC, was held on 18th May. This was attended by 41 local councillors and clerks.
- 5.2 As part of a programme of Induction activities being prepared for ENC councillors, a Constitution, Standards and Legislation session was held on 14th May. As a number of councillors were unable to attend (attendance was 19 councillors) this session is being repeated on 29th June. Any councillors who are unable to attend either session will have individual tuition with the Monitoring Officer.

6.0 Equality and diversity issues

6.1 There are no known negative equality and diversity issues arising from this paper.

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 This report outlines activities undertaken under local arrangements which reflect the Localism Act 2011 and related regulations.

8.0 Risk management

8.1 The actions reported reduce the risk of non-compliance with legislation, particularly the duty to promote high standards of conduct by Councillors.

9.0 Financial implications

9.1 There are no known additional financial implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate outcomes

10.1 The work reported here contributes to the Corporate Outcomes of Effective Management and Strong Community Leadership

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

Legal	Power: Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: Constitution Part 5.1 and Part 9				
Background Papers:					
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Date: 24/6/15					
CFO		MO		CX	

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