

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

**REPORT TO:** Civic Affairs Committee

24 September 2012

**AUTHOR/S:** Monitoring Officer / Legal and Democratic Services Manager

---

### REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS UPDATE

#### Purpose

1. To update the Civic Affairs Committee on progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to registration of interests.

#### Background

2. Following the Localism Act 2011 being passed the Government issued regulations outlining new requirements in relation to registration of interests on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. On 29<sup>th</sup> June the Monitoring officer circulated a briefing note to all district councillors and parish councils (copied to district councillors), along with a newly drafted register of interests form, in relation to the new legal requirements to register interests which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. Councillors were asked to complete the forms and return signed original forms to the Monitoring Officer by 28<sup>th</sup> July with confirmation from the parish clerk that the registers will be published on the parish council's website (where such a website exists).
3. The lack of time allowed for this process meant that all councillors were faced with the difficult task of understanding the new requirements very quickly and lead to universal consternation about the new legal requirement for parish councillors to have their register of interests forms published on the internet, which has led to the resignation of at least one parish councillor.
4. Briefing sessions were held at the district council for its members and advice was given to many parish councillors about how to complete the form, including further written advice being issued on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> July and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

#### Update

5. To date all district councillors bar one have completed their registration of interests form and the online registers updated accordingly.
6. There are 825 parish councillors within South Cambridgeshire and to date 423 forms have been returned to the Monitoring Officer, with 402 outstanding. Queries on the forms are still being followed up and incomplete or ambiguous forms returned to the councillor with requests to complete and return.
7. A table of parish councils with number of forms returned is attached as an Appendix to this report. Some parish councils are waiting for the next scheduled parish council meeting in September to complete the forms before returning.

**Contact Officer:** Fiona McMillan – Legal and Democratic Services Manager &  
Monitoring Officer  
Telephone: (01954) 713027