

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

17 December 2012

AUTHOR/S: Monitoring Officer

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. The Localism Act 2011 requires all councillors to complete a register of interests and these registers must be published on the council's website. If a parish council has a website the register must also be published on that website, as well as the district council's website.
3. As reported at the last meeting all district councillors have completed their registers of interests and these have been published on the council's website.
4. Written advice was given to parish councillors via their clerks about how to complete the form on 13th July, 20th July and 26th July 2012. Two letters have also been sent to clerks asking for the forms to be completed and returned.

Update

5. There are 825 parish councillors within South Cambridgeshire and to date 622 forms have been returned to the Monitoring Officer, with 203 still 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.
6. A table of parish councils with number of forms returned is attached as an Appendix to this report.
7. The table is marked in red showing those parish councils who have not yet returned any forms. These are Elsworth, Fulbourn, Harlton, Meldreth, Orwell, Stow-cum-Quy, Little Wilbraham and Wimpole. A third letter will now be sent directly to the Chairman of those parish councils asking them to ensure the registers are completed and returned as soon as possible.
8. It is understood that at least one of these parish councils are objecting in principle to completing the forms and having them published on the internet and were awaiting the response from the Government about whether the legislation was likely to be reviewed.
9. Other parish councils have only returned a small proportion of their forms and these parishes will also be written to again.

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