

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

14 March 2013

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 previously reported all district councillors have completed their registers of interests which are published on the council's website.
4. Written advice was given on four occasions in July 2012 to parish councillors via their clerks about how to complete the form. 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 673 forms have been returned to the Monitoring Officer. Taking into account 16 current vacancies (that are known by SCDC), there are 136 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, Meldreth, Orwell, Stow-cum-Quy, Little Wilbraham and Wimpole. The Monitoring Officer has now written personally to these parish councils asking them to ensure the registers are completed and returned as soon as possible.
8. Other parish councils have only returned a small proportion of their forms and these parishes have also been written to again.

Contact Officer: Fiona McMillan – Monitoring Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713027