

**CODE OF CONDUCT: STANDARDS BOARD NOTIFICATION
(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Standards Board for England for the investigation of allegations, the Monitoring Officer has been notified of the Board's decision in respect of an allegation made against a Councillor serving on Earith Parish Council.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 It had been alleged that the Parish Councillor had brought his office or authority into disrepute and had improperly sought to secure an advantage or disadvantage by asking for money in return for a favourable vote on a planning application. The complainant had a tape recording of the alleged conversation.

- 2.2 The Ethical Standards Officer (ESO) was unable to conclude on the basis of the evidence available that the Parish Councillor had asked for money in return for voting favourably on the complainants' planning application. The tape recording of the alleged conversation was inaudible and the ESO could not hear or identify any request made by the Councillor for payment. On this basis it was concluded that the Councillor's conduct did not bring his office or authority into disrepute and that there was no evidence that the Councillor had used his position as a Member improperly to secure an advantage for himself or an advantage or disadvantage for anyone else.

- 2.3 Given these circumstances, the ESO found that no further action needed to be taken.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to note that the Standards Board for England has agreed not to take any further action in relation to the allegation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter received from Standards Board for England dated 20th December 2005.

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