

**INTRODUCTION TO THE “CASE ALERT”**

**(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members may recall having expressed interest in reviewing case examples drawn from the Standards Board for England. Subsequently, two cases were presented to the Committee at their last meeting and Members indicated a wish for this practice to continue.
- 1.2 By coincidence and as an initial step in developing their role as strategic regulator and adviser, the Standards Board for England has launched a new facility entitled “Case Alert”.

**2. THE CASE ALERT**

- 2.1 It is the intention that the “Case Alert” will provide regular in-depth analysis of significant cases and best practice guidance drawing upon decisions by Standards Committees, the Adjudication Panel for England and the High Court. The “Case Alert” will focus on those cases which set important legal precedents and which will help to interpret the Code of Conduct and existing case law.
- 2.2 As the “Case Alert” should be especially useful to Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees, the District Council has registered to receive bulletins as and when they are published.
- 2.3 It is understood that the reports on cases in the “Case Alert” will be more detailed than the case summaries from which the report to your last meeting was drawn. Therefore and rather than duplicate efforts, it is suggested that when published the “Case Alert” be included on the Agenda for the next available meeting and replace the practice of producing case summaries as first presented to your last meeting. The Committee could continue to draw to the attention of town and parish councils any issues highlighted by the “Case Alert” as originally intended.
- 2.4 The first issue of the “Case Alert” is enclosed. This examines a case from January 2006 involving decisions on personal and prejudicial interests and whether the rules on interests affect Members’ human rights.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To assist Members in their interpretation of the Code of Conduct issued it is recommended that the “Case Alert” be submitted to future meetings of the Committee in place of “case summaries” produced by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Standards Board for England Bulletin No. 29.

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