

**STANDARDS AND CONDUCT WEB SITE**  
**(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members may recall that at their last meeting (Minute No. 9 refers), the Committee considered correspondence received from the Vice-Chairman of a Parish Council in Huntingdonshire which questioned the content of the "Standards and Conduct" pages on the District Council's web site and, in particular, the absence from the web site of the contact details of the non-elected and parish council representatives on the Standards Committee.
- 1.2 The Parish Councillor contended that the details of all Members of a Committee appointed "to promote and maintain high standards of conduct" should be publicly available.
- 1.3 The Chairman has undertaken to convey the Committee's view to the Parish Councillor once a decision has been taken on the matter.

**2. INITIAL THOUGHTS**

- 2.1 In discussion at their meeting on 6th July 2006, the non-elected Members present, whilst not objecting to their contact details being made available on the web site, questioned the circumstances under which an individual might feel it necessary to contact them and were concerned that, in the event of an investigation, their position might be compromised if they were to receive direct communications from complainants and/or Councillors under investigation.
- 2.2 The Chairman also reiterated his view that the independent members and Parish Councillors appointed to the Committee were not elected District representatives and therefore, served the Committee under different circumstances.
- 2.3 As a way forward, the Committee requested the Deputy Monitoring Officer to review the practices adopted by other authorities in Cambridgeshire and to present a brief résumé of these to their next meeting.

**3. OTHER CAMBRIDGESHIRE AUTHORITIES**

3.1	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Non-Elected and Parish Representatives</b>	<b>Web Site Details</b>
	Fenland District Council	3 independent members 3 parish councillor representatives	Included individual photographs, address, telephone and e-mail details

East Cambridgeshire District Council	3 independent members 2 parish councillor representatives	All correspondence to be sent care of East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely  Telephone number given is District Council's main switchboard
South Cambridgeshire District Council	3 independent members 3 parish councillor representatives	Included address, telephone and e-mail details
Cambridge City Council	2 independent members	No contact details available. Membership of Standards Committee – only initials and surnames given
Peterborough City Council	-----	No details of Committee membership available
Cambridgeshire County Council	2 independent members	No contact details available

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 From the enquiries made it appears that there is no common approach to the presentation of the contact details of non-elected/parish council representatives on Standards Committees in Cambridgeshire.
- 4.2 Given the initial comments made by Members at their last meeting, the Committee may consider that the practice adopted by East Cambridgeshire District Council might present the best solution.
- 4.3 The views of the Committee are requested.

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Correspondence received by the Monitoring Officer dated 24th May 2006.

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2006.

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