

**REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
(Report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance
and Monitoring Officer)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007, newly elected Councillors are required to register their financial and other interests with the District Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days of their election or appointment to office. Under Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Monitoring Officer must establish and maintain a register of interests of the Members and co-opted Members of the Authority. This is available for public inspection at Pathfinder House. Copies of registration forms signed by the Monitoring Officer are returned to the Parish Councils to be held locally.
- 1.2 Set out below for the Committee's information is the up-to-date position in terms of the return of registration forms from the 73 town and parish councils in Huntingdonshire.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Copies of relevant forms are despatched in advance by the Monitoring Officer to those parishes where elections are to be held in any year. Subsequent reminders are sent to those Parish Clerks who fail to submit their returns. In 2009, there were no ordinary Parish Council elections so the Monitoring Officer has taken the opportunity to review the register in its entirety. Letters were sent to Parish Clerks on 26th May and 14th August 2009 following up those forms which appeared dated or were still outstanding or otherwise asking Clerks to submit 'no changes signed declarations'.
- 2.2 Of the 672 Councillors elected or/appointed to office, registration forms have been received from 630 and 42 are outstanding. Of the 42 outstanding, 22 are vacancies and of the remaining 20 some are due from recently elected Councillors
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer has always tried to engage the co-operation and support of Parish Clerks in under-taking this exercise in the belief that this approach would secure a greater return. Standards for England advise that Councillors should review their declarations every six months. If declarations continue to be accurate record of a Councillor's interests, 'Standards For England' encourage authorities to request the return of 'a declaration of no changes' form. This certifies that the content of the current registration forms held for that Parish by the Monitoring Officer remain unchanged. Therefore, in addition to the 19 individual forms outstanding, 'no changes' forms are still awaited from –

Abbots Ripton PC	Hemingford Grey PC
Abbotsley PC	Holme PC
Alconbury Weston PC	Houghton and Wyton PC
Buckden PC	Huntingdon TC
Bythorn and Keyston PC	Kimbolton and Stonely PC
Colne PC	Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy PC
Conington PC	Old Hurst PC
Earith PC	Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish
Easton PC	Ramsey TC
Ellington PC	Sawtry PC
Elton PC	Somersham PC
Eynesbury Hardwicke PC	St Neots Rural PC
Farcet PC	Toseland PC
Folksworth and Washingley PC	Upwood and The Raveleys PC
Glatton PC	Waresley PC
Godmanchester TC	Woodhurst PC
Grafham PC	Woodwalton PC
Great and Little Gidding PC	Yaxley PC
Great Paxton PC	Yelling PC
Hail Weston PC	

2.4 In terms of individual Councillors and providing their 28 day period for registration of interests has not expired, the Committee might consider that, should forms still be outstanding by 30th September, the Monitoring Officer contact the Councillor concerned to suggest that further action may be taken against them as non-return of registration forms is itself a potential breach of the Code of Conduct.

2.5 In addition, the Monitoring Officer writes to all town and parish clerks in January each year, to request their assistance in reminding their Members to review their registerable interests and to update their entries should they consider it necessary to do so. Appropriate links and copies of forms are enclosed with this correspondence.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to consider what action, if any, the Monitoring Officer should take having regard to paragraph 2.3.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Register of Financial and Other Interests.

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