

Meeting of Council 14 November 2011

Report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee

At its October meeting, members of the Committee were pleased to welcome Cllr John Turner, a member of Lutterworth Town Council, to his first meeting as a Parish member and Cllr Andrew Palmer from Great Glen Parish Council following his reappointment to the Committee. Their contributions to the Committee's work will be particularly important as details emerge on the changing roles and responsibilities of Parish/Town Councils presaged in the Localism Bill.

As mentioned in an earlier report to Council, the training offered to Town and Parish Councillors had been well received. It is hoped to arrange a subsequent meeting of the Independent and Parish Members of the Committee with a number of Parish/Town Clerks to consider what, if anything, might usefully be done to ensure that Parish/ Town Councillors more generally, are fully aware of their obligations under the Code of Conduct and in particular understand issues like maintaining an up to date Register of Interests, predetermination and the declaration and recording of personal and prejudicial interests, which could well come into sharper focus post the Localism Bill.

The Committee has considered, and passed to the Management Board, its comments on a draft Local Code of Governance following a recommendation from Internal Audit that Council should adopt such a Code. The Committee agreed with this recommendation and hopes Council will adopt the Code when it is presented to it.

Peter Maxwell

Chairman, Standards Committee

25 October 2011