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## Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

### Standards Committee

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006

Subject: Standards Board for England: Bulletin 31

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Committee of the latest Standards Board Bulletin published on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006.
2. The Bulletin is a summary of news and guidance on the code of conduct issued by the Standards Board. The highlights of this issue are outlined from paragraph 3.1. The full Bulletin is attached at Appendix 1.
3. Distributing the Bulletin has positive implications for Corporate Governance, as it ensures that all Members of the Council, Parish Council Members and key officers are kept up to date with standards issues and guidance on the code of conduct.
4. Members of the Committee are asked to note the report and the attached Bulletin.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

1.1 To inform Members of the Committee of the latest Standards Board Bulletin published on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

## **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The Bulletin is a summary of news and guidance for officers and Members, providing the latest news, features and guidance on the Code of Conduct and the work of The Standards Board for England. It is published every two months on the Standards Board for England website.

2.2 The Bulletin is issued to all Members and voting co-opted Members of Council, parish clerks (via the Standards Committee agenda) and key officers within the authority. Past issues are available at:

[www.standardsboard.co.uk/Publications/TheBulletin/](http://www.standardsboard.co.uk/Publications/TheBulletin/)

## **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 Highlights from the Bulletin (attached at Appendix 1) include:

- a monitoring officer's first hand perspective on preparing for a local investigation;
- key findings from the research project *A snapshot of standards committees*;
- how the eight monitoring officers of Suffolk share good practice; and
- a look at specific Code of Conduct issues, including the recent Collins judgement.

## **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

4.1 The distribution of the Standards Board for England Bulletin is part of the Corporate Governance Communication Plan.

4.2 Distributing the Bulletin has positive implications for Corporate Governance, as it ensures that all Members of the Council, Parish Council Members and key officers are kept up to date with standards issues and guidance on the code of conduct.

## **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no legal or resource implications to this report.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The Bulletin is a summary of news and guidance for officers and Members, providing the latest news, features and guidance on the Code of Conduct published every two months.

6.2 The highlights in the Bulletin are detailed at paragraph 3.1 and the full Bulletin is attached at Appendix 1.

6.3 Distributing the Bulletin to all Members of the Council, Parish Councils and key officers contributes positively to the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements by ensuring they are kept up to date with standards issues and guidance on the code of conduct.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Members of the Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and the attached Bulletin.