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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 11</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER</b>	<b>OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>JEANETTE TSOI (595711)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMPLAINTS REFERRED BY THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	

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#### **1.0 Reason for Exempt**

1.1 Not applicable.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the report be noted.

#### **3.0 Purpose of Report**

3.1 To receive details of complaints referred to the Council by the Standards Board for England (SBE).

#### **4.0 Detail**

##### **4.1 Complaint A**

The complainant has alleged that a Parish Councillor had breached the Code of Conduct by failing to treat others with respect during a Parish Council meeting. The SBE referred the matter to the Council for investigation by the Monitoring Officer in December 2007. Due to earlier advice provided on the matter prior to the complaint, the case has been outsourced to external solicitors through the East Midlands Lawshare consortium, who will act on behalf of the Council in undertaking the investigation and producing a report of the findings, together with attendance at a Standards Committee to present the report.

##### **4.2 Complaint B**

The complainant has alleged that a Parish Councillor had breached the Code of Conduct on two occasions – firstly, by making a disrespectful comment during a Parish Council meeting and secondly, on a separate occasion, by failing to declare a prejudicial interest in the award of a contract during another Parish Council meeting. The SBE referred the matter to the Council for investigation by the Monitoring Officer in February 2008. Due to earlier advice provided on the matter prior to the complaint,

the case has been outsourced to external solicitors through the East Midlands Lawshare consortium, who will act on behalf of the Council in undertaking the investigation and producing a report of the findings, together with attendance at a Standards Committee to present the report.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

Fixed fees have been agreed with the solicitors, which can be contained within existing budgets.

## **6.0 Corporate/Community Implications**

6.1 None.

## **7.0 Background Papers**

7.1 None.