

Standards Committee

Update on Complaints

18 March 2010

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update to members on complaints relating to alleged breaches of the code of conduct received since the last meeting of the committee.

This report is public

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- (1) To note the contents of the report.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the committee an assessment subcommittee considered a review of a complaint requested by Mr Stafford Allen. The original complaint alleged that Councillor Hicks, Chairman of Weston on the Green Parish Council had breached the code of conduct by abusing his position as a Councillor by displaying a letter, supporting another parish Councillor, on a public notice board.
- 1.2 The original assessment subcommittee who considered the complaint decided that the language used by Councillor Hicks in the third paragraph of the letter was unreasonable and a personal attack, therefore a breach of the code of conduct. However, the assessment subcommittee felt that the complaint was malicious and it would be inappropriate to take further action.
- 1.3 The assessment subcommittee considering the review also felt that the language used by Councillor Hicks in the third paragraph of the letter was unreasonable and a personal attack and a breach of the code of conduct. The subcommittee decided that the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant further action.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

3.1 To note the decision of the assessment subcommittee

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

Option One To agree the recommendation as set out

Option Two To amend the recommendation

Consultations

None

Implications

Financial: There are no financial implications.

Comments checked by Denise Westlake, CSR Service Accountant, 01295 221982

Legal: The assessment subcommittee was convened and considered the complaint in accordance with the guidance from Standards for England

Comments checked by Liz Howlett, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, 01295 221686

Risk Management: There are no risk implications

Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management & insurance Officer, 01295 221566

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix	None
Background Papers	
None	
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