

# 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

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The meeting is recommended:

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

#### Executive Summary

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##### 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**

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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**

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None

## **Implications**

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**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**

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All

## **Document Information**

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix	None
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
<b>Report Author</b>	Alexa Coates, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer
<b>Contact Information</b>	01295 221591 alexa.coates@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk