

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 11 FEBRUARY 2009**

**CODE OF CONDUCT QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS MADE TO THE  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE – QUARTERLY UPDATE 1 OCTOBER – 31  
DECEMBER 2008**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE**

To provide the Committee with details of the Code of Conduct complaints received by the Standards Committee during the period 1 October 2008 – 31 December 2008.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**That the contents of this report are noted.**

**3. SUMMARY**

From 1 October to 31 December 2008 the Standards Committee received four Code of Conduct complaints under the new system for local assessment. A quarterly return has been forwarded to the Standards Board for England.

**4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Standards Committee – 9 October 2008 (ST-16).  
Standards Committee -18 December 2008 (ST- 25)

**5. INFORMATION**

**5.1 Background**

Under Section 186 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2008 (amending the Local Government Act 2000) there is a requirement that the Council provide regular returns to the Standards Board for England confirming the number of Code of Conduct complaints received by the Authority for local assessment.

The third return period was 1 October 2008 – 31 December 2008. During that period the Standards Committee received four complaints for local

assessment. The complaints related to both Borough and Parish Councillors.

The complaints were considered by the Referrals Sub-Committee on 15 December 2008 and four separate decision notices were produced. Two other individuals complained about were no longer elected Members and accordingly those complaints were not considered.

After considering the complaints the Sub-Committee decided that no further action was to be taken in respect of three of the four elected Members. In the case of the other elected Member a direction was made to the Monitoring Officer to invite that elected Member to attend Code of Conduct training. A separate report will be provided to this Committee to provide further information. At the time of preparing this report the indication is that there will be a review requested in respect of at least one of the decisions to take no further action.

The return was sent electronically to the Standards Board for England confirming this information. At the time of preparing this report there is no up to date information regarding the overall complaints received throughout England during this third quarter period.

## **5.2 Equal Opportunities**

There are no issues to be addressed.

## **5.3 Environmental Impact**

No implications

## **5.4 Legal Comment**

The legal comment is contained within the main body of this report.

## **5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities**

Providing regular updates on the complaints made to the Standards Committee demonstrates compliance with the CPA requirement that “the Council has undertaken their assessment of Standards of Conduct, including how effectively Members are complying with the Code of Conduct, the number and types of complaints received, and takes action as appropriate”.

## **5.6 Opportunities and Risks**

The opportunities and risks associated with providing this information to the Committee has been identified and assessed. Arrangements have been put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

## **5.7 Financial Implications**

Code of Conduct Complaints are dealt with within existing resources and any over spends will be reported as part of the routine financial monitoring process.

## **6. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

District wide implications.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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