

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

**UPDATE REPORT ON ACTION UNDERTAKEN BY THE MONITORING OFFICER FOLLOWING A CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT - COUNCILLOR LINDA BAKER-OLIVER AND WATERS-UPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**1. PURPOSE**

To update the Standards Committee concerning action undertaken at the direction of the Standards Committee Referrals Sub-Committee following a complaint alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee confirm that they are satisfied with the outcome of the action undertaken by the Monitoring Officer following the decision of the Referrals Sub-Committee on 23 February 2009**

**3. SUMMARY**

Following a complaint to the Standards Committee, the Referrals Sub-Committee directed that the Monitoring Officer invite both the Councillor subject to the complaint and all other Councillors from the Parish Council concerned to attend Code of Conduct training. The Committee are required to consider whether they are satisfied with the action undertaken by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the direction given.

**4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Standards Committee Referrals Sub-Committee – 23 February 2009  
Standards Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 (ST – 41)

**5. INFORMATION**

**5.1 Background**

On the 23 February 2009 the Referrals Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee met to consider a complaint made by a member of the public alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct by Councillor Linda Baker-

Oliver of Waters-Upton Parish Council. Having considered the complaint, and taken advice, the Sub-Committee decided that they would direct the Monitoring Officer to invite Councillor Linda Baker-Oliver to undertake Code of Conduct training. They also decided that it would be appropriate to offer training to all Members of Waters-Upton Parish Council.

Training was provided to Cllr Baker-Oliver individually on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and to the Parish Council as a whole on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 when all but one member of the Parish Council attended. Discussions regarding the application of the code of conduct and the procedures to be followed were positive.

It is a requirement that the Standards Committee have to confirm whether or not they are satisfied with the outcome achieved. Accordingly, the Committee are required to consider the action undertaken following the decision made by the Referrals Sub-Committee on 23 February and decide whether the matter can be considered closed.

## **5.2 Equality and Diversity**

The Monitoring Officer will ensure that any equality and diversity issues are addressed in respect of Code of Conduct training.

## **5.3 Environmental Impact**

No implications

## **5.4 Legal Comment**

In accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 Act Regulation 13 (4) (c) the Standards Committee are required to make a decision as to whether or not they are satisfied with the action taken as a result of the referral to the Monitoring Officer. If no further action is required notification is to be given to the Member who is subject to the report, the person who made the allegations and the Parish Council concerned (in accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 Act Regulation 13 (7)).

## **5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities**

Processing complaints in accordance with statutory guidelines together with ensuring that appropriate action is taken in order to resolve issues raised by the complaints assist the Council in meeting the corporate priority of being an efficient and effective Council.

## **5.6 Opportunities and Risks**

The opportunities and risks associated with providing this Code of Conduct training in complying with the direction from the Referrals Sub-Committee as being 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**

The cost of the training was funded from within existing budget provision.

## **6. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

District wide implications

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2008

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008

**End of Report**

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