

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 17th SEPTEMBER 2009

**CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS MADE TO THE STANDARDS
COMMITTEE – QUARTERLY UPDATE 1 APRIL 2009 – 30 JUNE 2009**

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 1st April 2009 – 30 June 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of this report are noted.

3. SUMMARY

From 1st April to the 30 June 2009 the Standards Committee received complaints about three elected members which proceeded to the referrals sub-committee. A quarterly return has been forwarded to the Standards for England.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee – 9 December 2008 (ST-16).
Standards Committee -18 December 2008 (ST- 25)
Standards Committee -11 February 2009 (ST- 31)
Standards Committee – 21st April 2009 (ST-37)

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 return period was 1st April 2009 – 30th June 2009. During that period the Standards Committee received complaints about three elected members which proceeded to local assessment. The complaints were made by members of the public. Complaints were generally concerning aspects of the code that relate to failing to treat others with respect and disrepute.

The complaints were considered by the Referrals Sub-Committee. In one case it was decided that a local investigation was required. In the two remaining cases the sub-committee decided to take no further action.

During the return period the review sub-committee considered one review application made by a member of the public concerning a Telford & Wrekin Borough Councillor (also when acting as a Parish Councillor). The sub-committee decided to uphold the original decision and that no further action was required.

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 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

It is important that this Committee is provided with up to date information as to the nature of the complaints received and the elements of the Code it relates to. This can assist the Committee in looking at areas where further work needs to be done, for example in respect of specific topics to be dealt with during Code of Conduct training. All of these actions contribute to assisting the Council in meeting corporate priorities of being an efficient and effective and customer focussed Council.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

The opportunities and risks associated with providing this information to the Committee have 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

***Report prepared by Matthew Cumberbatch, Group Solicitor, Legal Services
Tel: 01952 383255***