

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2009**

**CODE OF CONDUCT QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS MADE TO THE  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE – QUARTERLY UPDATE 1 JANUARY 2009 –  
31 MARCH 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 1 January 2009 – 31 March 2009.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

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

**3. SUMMARY**

From 1 January to the 31 March 2009 the Standards Committee received two 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 December 2008 (ST-16).  
Standards Committee -18 December 2008 (ST- 25)  
Standards Committee -11 February 2009 (ST- 31)

**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 fourth return period was 1 January 2009 – 31 March 2009. During that period the Standards Committee received two complaints for local assessment. The complaints both related to Parish Councillors.

The complaints were considered by the Referrals Sub-Committee on 23 February and 27 March 2009 respectively.

In respect of the first complaint the Referrals Sub-Committee decided to direct the Monitoring Officer to invite the Councillor concerned and the rest of the Parish Council to be provided with Code of Conduct training. In respect of this particular complaint the Referrals Sub-Committee decided it related to the aspects of the Code concerning having a prejudicial interest and failing to act appropriately.

In respect of the second complaint the Referrals Sub-Committee decided to take no further action.

Both of the complaints submitted during this period were made by members of the public.

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 fourth 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

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