

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 17th JUNE 2010

**CODE OF CONDUCT QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS MADE TO THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE – QUARTERLY UPDATE 1st January 2010 –
31st March 2010**

REPORT OF HEAD OF GOVERNANCE 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 January 2010– 31st March 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of this report are noted.

3. SUMMARY

From 1st January 2010 to the 31st March 2010 the Standards Committee received complaints about elected members which proceeded to the referrals sub-committee. A quarterly return has been forwarded to 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)
Standards Committee – 17th September 2009 (ST-16)
Standards Committee – 25th March 2010 (ST-31)

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

Under Section 186 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (amending the Local Government Act 2000) there is a requirement that the Council provide regular

returns to Standards for England confirming the number of Code of Conduct complaints received by the Authority for local assessment.

The return period was 1st January 2010 – 31st March 2010. During that period the Standards Committee received 2 complaints about elected members which proceeded to local assessment. Both complaints related to Parish/Town Councillors. One complaint was made by a member of the public, the other was made by a local town councillor.

The complaints were considered by the Referrals Sub-Committee who referred one complaint for local investigation and decided no further action should be taken in respect of the other complaint.

During the same period there were no review sub-committees. One final hearing scheduled to take place during this period was adjourned after problems were raised relating to witness availability.

The return was sent electronically to Standards for England confirming this information.

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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