



Telford & Wrekin

C O U N C I L

DECISION NOTICE: REFERRAL FOR OTHER ACTION

Reference 2011/5

Complaint

On 16th June 2011, the Referrals Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee of this authority considered a complaint from Mr. Tony Rowland concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Adrian Meredith, a member of Newport Town Council and Telford & Wrekin Council.

We have set out a general summary of the complaint below:

The complaint relates to Councillor Meredith's involvement in a planning application at a property in Newport.

The complainant alleges that Councillor Meredith has abused his position as a Councillor in respect of his behaviour at the Plans Board site visit which the complainant states caused the application to be refused. Further, the complainant has also included in the complaint a letter on Council headed paper from Councillor Meredith to the planning inspector regarding the appeal against the refusal of planning permission made by the complainant.

Decision

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Referrals Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee decided to direct the Monitoring Officer to invite Councillor Meredith for training.

Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified

We have identified below the paragraphs of the Code of Conduct which may apply to the alleged conduct.

- using your position as a member improperly to confer or secure an advantage or disadvantage
- not using the resources of the authority in accordance with their requirements

This decision notice is sent to the person or persons making the allegation, the member against whom the allegation was made and the clerk to Newport Town Council.

The reason for this decision is that the Sub-Committee believed that, on the basis of the information contained in the complaint, there may have been an apparent breach of the Code of Conduct and that the member complained of is amenable to engaging in training.

What happens now?

The Monitoring Officer will contact Councillor Meredith to invite him to attend training and subsequently report back to the Standards Committee accordingly.

Terms of reference.

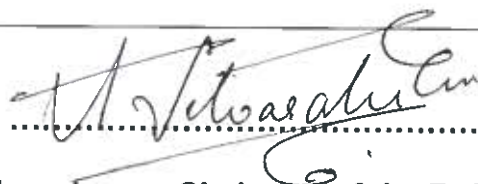
The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the Local Government Act 2000, which now provides for the local assessment of new complaints that members of relevant authorities may have breached the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 relate to the conduct of authority members and the requirements for dealing with this.

The regulations set out the framework for the operation of a locally based system for the assessment, referral and investigation of complaints of misconduct by members of authorities. They amend and re-enact existing provisions in both the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, as amended, and the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003, as amended

Additional Help

If you need additional support in relation to this or future contact with us, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have difficulty reading this notice we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you, in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2000. We can also help if English is not your first language. If such assistance is required then please contact us on 01952 383255.

Signed



Date 20th June 2011

Arul Selvaratnam - Chairman of the Referrals Sub-Committee