
UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

To: **Standards Committee – 4 September 2013**

By: **Harvey Patterson, Corporate Services & Regulatory Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: To update the Standards Committee on the progress of Informal Resolution of Complaints and results of Investigations.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 *Arrangements for Dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints* adopted by council in July 2012 made changes in the method of reporting results of Informal Resolution of complaints and Investigation Reports.
- 1.2 The Monitoring Officer reports to committee on the results of informal resolution and 'No Breach' Investigation Reports.

2.0 Informal Resolution of Complaints

- 2.1 No Cases were referred to the Monitoring Officer for Informal Resolution for the period of June – August 2013.
- 2.2 Referring a complaint to the Monitoring Officer for Other Action is a disposal of the complaint.

3.0 Investigation Reports

- 3.1 Since the 6 June meeting of the Standards Committee 2 investigations have been completed (one a Parish Councillor and one a District Councillor, carried out by separate investigators).
- 3.2 In both cases the investigators found no breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 In line with the current arrangements the Independent Person was consulted by the Monitoring Officer, who concurred with the reports' findings that no further action should be taken.
- 3.4 Reporting the outcome of a 'No Breach' investigation report to the Standards Committee is the final stage of the complaint process and these 2 cases are now closed.

4.0 Hearings

- 4.1 The Standards Hearings Sub-Committee was convened on 5 June 2013 to hear Standards Complaint TDCSC93/12.
- 4.2 The Councillor was found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct
- 4.2 The Sanctions for the case

- The Decision Notice to be published on the Council's website for a period of 3 months
- That the Council be requested to issue a press release apologising to the complainant on behalf of the council and deploring the actions of an elected member of Thanet District Council.

4.3 However prior to the 'naming and shaming' of the Councillor, the complainant requested no publicity. The Decision Notice was published on the Council's website in a redacted form.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 None

5.2 Legal

6.2.1 No legal implications at this stage.

6.3 Corporate

6.3.1 None at this stage.

7.4 Equity and Equalities

7.4.1 None at this stage.

8.0 Recommendation

7.1 For information

8.0 Decision Making Process

8.1 For information

Contact Officer:	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Sue McGonigal, Chief Executive

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	