
REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:
DATE OF MEETING:	31ST MARCH 2009	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	MONITORING OFFICER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS TO STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the summary of complaints considered by the Standards Sub-Committees be noted.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider a summary of the complaints considered by the Standards Sub-Committees under the new Local Assessment regime.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Members of the Committee are reminded that the Local Assessment regime introduced by The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 relating to the assessment of complaints has been operative since 8th May 2008. A summary of the complaints received is attached at Annexe 'A'. Details of the complainant and the subject Members have been omitted.

4.2 Regulation 8(5) requires a Sub-Committee to produce a summary in writing of its consideration of an allegation or review of a decision. The written summary must:-

- record the main points considered, the conclusions as regards the allegation or review of the decision and the reasons for that conclusion;
- be prepared having regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Standards Board;
- be available for inspection by members of the public at the offices of the authority for a period of six years beginning with the date of the meeting; and
- be given to any parish council of which any Member who is the subject of an allegation referred to in the written summary is a Member.

4.3 Ongoing reports will be submitted to the Committee on further complaints received.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 In 2008 Members approved £25,000 to be carried forward into 2008/09, out of savings made across the Legal & Democratic Services' budgets, for use in relation to the Local Assessment regime.

5.2 To date £20,000 has been committed to enable 10 investigations to be undertaken and to comply with statutory publicity requirements which allow subject Members to require a notice to be placed in the press if there is a finding of no breach following an investigation. Additional costs will be incurred if an Investigator is required to present their report to a Sub-Committee (Hearing), following a finding that in their opinion, the Code has been breached.

5.3 On 19th March 2009, the Finance & Management Committee agreed to carry forward £25,000 into 2009/10 out of savings made across the Legal & Democratic Services budgets, subject to the final outturn figures.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Standards Committee to assess allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct locally, for District Council members and also Parish Council members.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 The Council's Standards Committee plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct by Councillors of South Derbyshire District Council and all the Parishes in its area.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 None