

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH

Date: Thursday, 12 June 2014

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th March, 2014 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 4)
5. Update from the Monitoring Officer on Allegations of Breaches of the Code of Conduct (report herewith) (Pages 5 - 7)
6. Update from the Monitoring Officer on the Confidential Reporting Code (report herewith) (Pages 8 - 18)
7. Request for a Dispensation from the Requirements of the Code of Conduct (report herewith) (Pages 19 - 20)
8. Exclusion of the Press and Public
The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relates to an individual).
9. Confidential Update from the Monitoring Officer (report herewith) (Pages 21 - 23)
10. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Thursday, 11th September, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
13th March, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Gosling (in the Chair); Councillors Beck, Gilding, Middleton, Pitchley, P. A. Russell, Sims, Tweed, along with Parish Councillors Bates, Rowley and Swann and also Mrs. J. Porter.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Daines and P. Edler.

B19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Standards Committee held on 12th December, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

B20 UPDATE BY THE MONITORING OFFICER REGARDING HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the update presented by Jacqueline Collins, Monitoring Officer, which referred to the handling of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct and provided details on:-

- An update on progress following the twenty-eight complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct that have been made at one Parish Council, the vast majority of which were being resolved by way of informal resolution. An update by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person was provided which outlined the ongoing involvement and the progress made to date.

It was noted that the Independent Person was to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council on Monday, 17th March, 2014 with a view to addressing the Parish Council and the public about informally resolving the previous issues. The Independent Person agreed to report his findings back to the Standards Committee in due course.

It was also noted that a letter had been received by both the Chair of the Standards Committee and the Leader of the Opposition regarding long standing issues of conduct at the Parish Council which, it was hoped, would be resolved as part of the ongoing involvement.

- A complaint was made that two members of the Planning Board had made comments in relation to a planning application that were not fair, reasonable or responsible. Following consideration by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person the comments made were not considered to constitute pre-determination or bias. The Independent Person recommended that the content of the complaint be brought to the attention of the relevant Members, which had now been done.

- A complaint regarding the manner of registration of a Member's interests (and those of the Members spouse) in a company, and the registration of the appointment of the Member's spouse to an office. The Monitoring Officer considered all aspects of the query against the requirements of the Register of Interests form and was satisfied that there had been no error in the disclosures by the Member.
- Complaints regarding the dating of the Register of Interests forms of two Members. Upon investigation by the Monitoring Officer the discrepancies were clarified.
- There was a complaint regarding disclosure of interests that was currently being considered, with further details being requested.

Resolved:- That the report, the steps taken and its contents be noted.

(Councillor Beck left the meeting and did not take part in the debate relating to the first item and returned to the meeting once this had been discussed)

B21 RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS, UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL JOINT WORKING GROUP AND SUMMARY NOTES ON THE ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON

Consideration was given to a report presented by Jacqueline Collins, Monitoring Officer, which provided an update with regards to the recruitment of Independent Members, conclusions following the Parish Council Joint Working Group and the summary notes on the role of the Independent Person.

In terms of the recruitment process, action was taken following the request to re-advertise the vacancies and four applications had now been received. Consideration needed to be given to the selection process and any appointment would require approval by Council.

The Monitoring Officer also attended a meeting of the Parish Council Joint Working Group on 9th January, 2014, where discussion on a number of issues on the following issues took place:-

- Charging the Parish Councils for the cost of undertaking investigations or informal resolution of their matters.
- That Parish Council should be informed of the costs of investigation/informal resolution of their issues.
- Where matters did not reach the level to warrant formal investigation, those matters may be referred back to the Parish Council for consideration.

It was suggested that the Standards Committee should be fully aware of the potential costs it may seek to charge the Parish Councils and should

give consideration to potential costs and should this kind of approach to matters be taken forward, then a further report for consideration should be submitted by the Monitoring Officer.

The Committee also heard that David Roper-Newman, Independent Person, attended a course in October 2013 run by Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd, a well-known, national trainer in the field of ethical standards of Elected Members. A note summarising their findings from the courses they conducted was provided which indicated that Rotherham was broadly in line with the national picture.

The Committee suggested that, in terms of the recruitment process, the Panel consist of three Elected Members, one Parish Council Member and an Independent Member.

It was also suggested that in light on the ongoing support at one Parish Council, consideration of potential costs and how this information should be shared with Parish Councils should be placed on hold until the work and informal resolution had concluded.

Resolved:- (1) That the position with regard to recruiting two new independent members be noted and the appointment process of interview by Councillors Beck, Middleton and Tweed, Parish Councillor Swann and Mrs. J. Porter be approved.

(2) That the comments made at the Parish Council Joint Working Group be noted and the position placed on hold until the conclusion of the work of the Independent Person at one particular Parish Council.

(3) That the content of the summary notes on the Role of the Independent Person be noted.

B22 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (as amended March, 2006) (information relates to an individual).

B23 UPDATE BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

Consideration was given to a report presented by Jacqueline Collins, Monitoring Officer, which provided an update and further information with regards to the handling of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct in three instances, which included:-

- A complaint that three Parish Councillors acted improperly in an appointment process.

This was investigated by the Monitoring Officer and a view sought from the Independent Person and the view formed that the allegation did not constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct.

- A complaint that as a Borough Councillor had, in 2011, accepted an informal caution from the Police regarding the content of an election leaflet, he should stand down.

This matter had previously been investigated and following consultation by the Monitoring Officer with the Independent Person found not to warrant any further action.

- An incident at a meeting of Electors at a Parish Council.

This matter remained ongoing and the Deputy Monitoring Officer was currently interviewing the Parish Councillor involved.

Once the outcome of the discussions was known consideration would be given to the convening of a Sub-Committee consisting of Parish Councillors Bates and Rowley and Councillor Sims.

Resolved:- That the steps taken be noted.

(Councillor Beck left the meeting prior to consideration of this item and did not participate in any debate regarding the content)

B24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards Committee take place on Thursday, 12th June, 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Standards Committee
2.	Date:	12th June 2014
3.	Title:	Update by the Monitoring Officer regarding the handling of complaints
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update the Committee with regard to the handling of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct

6. Recommendations

That the Committee notes the steps that have been taken to resolve the complaints.

7. Proposals and Details

The Monitoring Officer has the responsibility to seek resolution of allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct, without formal investigation wherever practicable and determining whether a complaint should be referred to a panel of independent members of the Standards Committee for further consideration. This is an update on the exercise of that function.

1. A complaint that a Borough Councillor had failed to declare an interest in a matter of business at a meeting. The complainant had referred his complaint to the Ombudsman. The complainant was asked for details to substantiate his complaint on two occasions, but failed to do so. In the circumstances the Monitoring Officer wrote to the Ombudsman to confirm that, in the absence of any detail to substantiate the allegation, the matter would not proceed further.
2. A complaint that a Town Councillor had deliberately altered the order of an agenda in order to favour relatives. The matter was considered by the Monitoring Officer and advice from David Roper-Newman, Independent Person, was sought.

Upon consideration the Monitoring Officer was satisfied that the individuals who were alleged to be relatives of the Town Councillor were not related to him. In addition the action that the Town Councillor was alleged to have taken would not have constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct in any event.

The view of the Independent Person accorded with that of the Monitoring Officer, that the complaint was relatively minor and it should not be progressed.

Accordingly the matter will not be considered further.

3. A complaint that members of one particular party on a parish council had committed misconduct in public office by entering into a contract that was not lawfully executed.

Upon consideration the Monitoring Officer formed the view that the unlawful actions alleged would have been the responsibility of the officers and advisers of the Parish Council. The alleged transgressions would not be those of the councillors themselves.

The matter was referred to the Independent Person, David Roper-Newman, whose view was that there was no potential breach of the Code of Conduct and that the offence of misconduct in public office would be a matter to be investigated by the police.

In view of the above the matter will not be referred to a Panel of the Standards Committee for further consideration.

4. A complaint that a Parish Council had acted unfairly in relation to one of its members; that certain Parish Councillors had acted inappropriately; that there had been impropriety with regard to a transaction and that “resolute actions” needed to be taken by the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to prevent the parish becoming a “caldrion of dissent”.

The Monitoring Officer formed the opinion that these were not matters which could be considered under the Code of Conduct and informed the complainant accordingly.

8. Finance

None

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The proper consideration of complaints under the Code of Conduct will enhance the standing of all councils and elected members within the Borough.

10. Background Papers and Consultation

Files held by the Monitoring Officer

Contact Name : *Jacqueline Collins, Director of Legal and Democratic Services,*
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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Standards Committee
2.	Date:	12th June 2014
3.	Title:	Update from the Monitoring Officer on the Confidential Reporting Code
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update the Committee on the contents of the Confidential Reporting Code and referrals for the year 2013/2014.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee notes the content of the report.

7. Proposals and Details

The Standards Committee has the responsibility for overseeing the operation of the Council's Confidential Reporting Code (commonly known as the Whistleblowing Procedure). The Code, which is attached at appendix A, is reviewed annually. This has been done and it is considered that the Code is fit for purpose.

The Code has also been reviewed in accordance with the British Standards PAS 1998:2008 Whistleblowing Arrangements Code of Practice, and found to be generally compliant. The area where the Council's Code deviates from the British Standard is that it does not provide access to a helpline for confidential enquiries. However the Code does enable advice to be sought from the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Director of Human Resources. In addition, if the complainant is not satisfied with the actions taken by the Council the matter can be referred externally, to a number of bodies including KPMG, the Council's external auditors. These are considered to be appropriate safeguards which reflect the requirements of the British Standard.

One referral has been received under the Confidential Reporting Code which was dealt with by the Monitoring Officer. The allegation was of financial mismanagement at a school and was investigated by the Council's Internal Audit team. The allegations of fraudulent mismanage were not substantiated.

8. Finance

None

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A robust and fit for purpose Confidential Reporting Code is essential to assure Members, Officers and the public that the Council has appropriate procedures for considering whistleblowing allegations in a confidential and appropriate manner

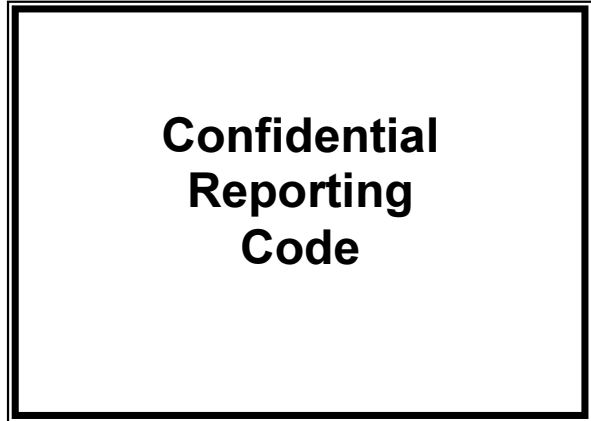
10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

None

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
June 2014

**Reviewed and updated in line with the British Standards PAS1998:2008
“Whistleblowing Arrangements Code of Practice”**

Confidential Reporting Code

1. Introduction
2. Aims and Scopes of this Policy
3. Anonymous Allegations
4. Confidentiality
5. Safeguards
6. Untrue Allegations
7. How to raise a concern
8. How the Council will respond
9. The Responsible Officer
10. How the matter can be taken further

Appendix 1: Anti – Fraud Strategy – Statement and Procedures

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. In line with that commitment we expect employees, and others that we deal with, who have concerns about any aspect of the Council's work to come forward and voice those concerns. It is recognised that most cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis.
- 1.2 Employees are often the first to realise that there may be something seriously wrong within the Council and have a duty to report such matters. However, they may not express their concerns because they feel that speaking up would be disloyal to their colleagues or to the Council. They may also fear harassment or victimisation. However, employees should not simply ignore their concerns.
- 1.3 This policy document makes it clear that employees can come forward and express their concerns without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. This Confidential Reporting policy is intended to encourage and enable employees to raise serious concerns **within** the Council. Employees will be commended for raising concerns within the Council rather than overlooking a problem or "blowing the whistle" outside.

- 1.4 Managers should take in to account the translation and interpretation needs of the individual. This Code can be made available in other languages and formats on request.
- 1.5 The policy applies to all employees and those contractors working for the Council on Council premises, for example, agency staff, builders, drivers. It also covers suppliers and those providing services under a contract with the Council.
- 1.6 These procedures are in addition to the Council's complaints procedures and other statutory reporting procedures applying to some Departments.
- 1.7 This policy has been discussed with the relevant trade unions and has their support.

2. AIMS AND SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

2.1 This policy aims to:

- encourage you to feel confident in raising serious concerns and to question and act upon concerns about practice
- provide avenues for you to raise those concerns and receive feedback on any action taken
- ensure that you receive a response to your concerns and that you are aware of how to pursue them if you are not satisfied
- reassure you that you will be protected from possible reprisals or victimisation if you have a reasonable belief that you have made any disclosure in good faith.

2.2 There are existing procedures in place to enable you to lodge a grievance relating to your own employment including any breach of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policies or bullying and harassment. Any disclosure relating to your own contract of employment, is not covered by the this Code, unless that disclosure can be said to be in the public interest. The Confidential Reporting Code is intended to cover major concerns that fall outside the scope of other procedures. These include:

- conduct which is an offence or a breach of law
 - disclosures relating to miscarriages of justice
 - health and safety risks, including risks to the public as well as other employees
 - damage to the environment
 - the unauthorised use of public funds
 - possible fraud and corruption¹
 - sexual or physical abuse of clients, or
 - other unethical conduct.²
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Confidential Reporting Code

- 1 ¹The Council's policy statement on fraud is appended.
2 ²Employees should make themselves familiar with the Code of Practice on Official Conduct.

2.3 Thus, any serious concerns that you have about any aspect of service provision or the conduct of officers or members of the Council or others acting on behalf of the Council can be reported under the Confidential Reporting Policy. This may be about something that:

- makes you feel uncomfortable in terms of known standards, your experience or the standards you believe the Council subscribes to; or
- is against the Council's Standing Orders and policies; or
- falls below established standards of practice; or
- amounts to improper conduct.

3. ANONYMOUS ALLEGATIONS

3.1 This policy encourages you to put your name to your allegation whenever possible.

3.2 Concerns expressed anonymously are much less powerful and more difficult to investigate, however, these will still be considered but will be assessed on the:

- seriousness of the issues raised
- credibility of the concern; and
- likelihood of confirming the allegation from attributable sources.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

4.1 All concerns will be treated in confidence and every effort will be made not to reveal your identity if you so wish. At the appropriate time, however, you may need to come forward as a witness.

5. SAFEGUARDS

5.1 Harassment or Victimisation

5.2 The Council is committed to good practice and high standards and wants to be supportive of employees.

5.3 The Council recognises that the decision to report a concern can be a difficult one to make. If what you are saying is in the public interest, you should have nothing to fear because you will be doing your duty to your employer and those for whom you are providing a service.

Confidential Reporting Code

- 5.4 The Council will not tolerate any harassment or victimisation (including informal pressures) and will take appropriate action to protect you when you raise a concern in the public interest.. Colleagues or agents acting on behalf of the Council should not harass or victimise you because you have made a disclosure.
- 5.5 Any investigation into allegations of potential malpractice will not influence or be influenced by any other employment procedures that already affect you.
- 5.6 The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 gives legal protection to employees who disclose information, in the public interest, about alleged wrongdoing.

6. UNTRUE ALLEGATIONS

- 6.1 If you make an allegation in the public interest and with reasonable grounds,, but it is not confirmed by the investigation, no action will be taken against you. If, however, you make an allegation frivolously, maliciously or for personal gain, disciplinary action may be taken against you.

7. HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN

- 7.1 You should raise concerns with the Director of Legal & Democratic Services, Director of Human Resources or the Chief Executive. Concerns may be raised verbally or in writing. Employees who wish to make a written report are invited to use the following format:

- please mark envelope “to be opened by addressee only”
- the background and history of the concern (giving relevant dates);
- the reason why you are particularly concerned about the situation.

- 7.2 The earlier you express the concern the easier it is to take action.

- 7.3 Although you are not expected to prove beyond doubt the truth of an allegation, you will need to demonstrate to the person contacted that there are reasonable grounds for your concern.

7.4 Obtain advice/guidance on how to pursue matters of concern from the Director of Human Resources, Director of Legal & Democratic Services, the Chief Executive or the Chairman of the Standards Committee.

- 7.5 You may wish to consider discussing your concern with a colleague or your trade union first and you may find it easier to raise the matter if there are two (or more) of you who have had the same experience or concerns.

- 7.6 You may invite your trade union, professional association representative, work colleague or a friend to be present during any meetings or interviews in connection with the concerns you have raised.

Confidential Reporting Code

8. HOW THE COUNCIL WILL RESPOND

- 8.1 The Council will respond to your concerns. Do not forget that testing out your concerns is not the same as either accepting or rejecting them.
- 8.2 Where appropriate, the matters raised may:
- be investigated by management, internal audit, or through the disciplinary process
 - be investigated by the Council's Standards Committee if the complaint concerns an Elected Member
 - be referred to the police
 - be referred to the external auditor
 - form the subject of an independent inquiry
- 8.3 In order to protect individuals and those accused of misdeeds or possible malpractice, initial enquiries will be made to decide whether an investigation is appropriate and, if so, what form it should take. The overriding principle which the Council will have in mind is the public interest. Concerns or allegations which fall within the scope of specific procedures (for example, child protection issues) will normally be referred for consideration under those procedures.
- 8.4 Some concerns may be resolved by agreed action without the need for investigation. If urgent action is required this will be taken before any investigation is conducted.
- 8.5 Within ten working days of a concern being raised, the person to whom it is expressed will write to you:
- acknowledging that the concern has been received
 - indicating how we propose to deal with the matter
 - giving an estimate of how long it will take to provide a final response
 - telling you whether any initial enquiries have been made
 - supplying you with information on staff support mechanisms, and
 - telling you whether further investigations will take place and if not, why not.
- 8.6 The amount of contact between the officers considering the issues and you will depend on the nature of the matters raised, the potential difficulties involved and the clarity of the information provided. If necessary, the Council will seek further information from you.
- 8.7 Where any meeting is arranged, off-site if you so wish, you can be accompanied by a union, professional association representative, work colleague or a friend.
- 8.8 The Council will take steps to minimise any difficulties which you may experience as a result of raising a concern. For instance, if you are required

Confidential Reporting Code

to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings the Council will arrange for you to receive advice about the procedure.

- 8.9 The Council accepts that you need to be assured that the matter has been properly addressed. Thus, subject to legal constraints, we will keep you informed of developments every twenty-eight days and the outcome of any investigation.

9. THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

- 9.1 The Director of Legal & Democratic Services has overall responsibility for the maintenance and operation of this policy. That officer maintains a record of concerns raised and the outcomes (but in a form which does not endanger your confidentiality) and will report as necessary to the Council. All officers dealing with concerns raised under this procedure will submit reports on these concerns and of the outcomes to the Director of Legal & Democratic Services.

10. HOW THE MATTER CAN BE TAKEN FURTHER

- 10.1 This policy is intended to provide you with an avenue within the Council to raise concerns. The Council hopes you will be satisfied with any action taken. If you are not, then you can request the Director of Legal & Democratic Services to refer the matter for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee. If, having exhausted all internal processes, you feel it is necessary to take the matter outside the Council, the following are possible contact points:

- KPMG (see footnote 1 below)
- your trade union
- your local Citizens Advice Bureau
- relevant professional bodies or regulatory organisations
- a relevant voluntary organisation
- the police

- 10.2 You are advised that disclosure to the press is not encouraged and will not normally be legally protected.

Footnotes

1. KPMG can be contacted by post, telephone or email:

Stephen Clark or Rashpal Khangura
KPMG (Regional Office)
St. James Square
Manchester

Telephone 0161 2464281 or 0113 2313396
e-mail: Stephen.clark@kpmg.co.uk
or Rashpal.Khangura@KPMG.co.uk

Confidential Reporting Code

Appendix 1

ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY - STATEMENT & PROCEDURES

The Council is committed to the proper accountability of public funds and condemns all actions that are of a fraudulent and corrupt nature. As part of this commitment to public accountability the Council expects that :-

1. Members

Shall fulfil their duties in accordance with the requirements of "the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members".

2. Employees

Act in accordance with the Code of Official Conduct as issued to employees and contained in the Local Conditions of Service

Declare to their line manager any other form of employment in addition to their function within the Council. The details are to be entered in the "Departmental Register of Interests Declared by Employees", copies of which are held in each Department.

3. Members and Employees

Protect public interest and confidence as the over-riding factor when decisions are to be made in relation to matters that involve an element of private interest. Where doubt exists over the correct procedure, advice should be sought from the appropriate Director.

When making decisions regarding public appointments or recommending individuals for awards or benefits, both monetary and otherwise, that the decision taken is based purely on merit in accordance with defined guidelines.

Be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions including subjecting themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office. To openly give reasons for their decisions and actions except in cases where the wider public interest requires a restriction of such information.

Declare any private interest which is relevant to their public duties by making an appropriate entry in the Register of Interests. Private interest is defined as both of a monetary and non-monetary nature, where the interest might be perceived by the public to influence the decision making process.

Make decisions solely in pursuance of the Council's statutory functions and declared policies at the exclusion of private and personal interest.

Comply with the Financial Regulations and the Standing Orders of the Council at all times.

Confidential Reporting Code

Award contracts in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders and that successful tenderers are selected in accordance with defined guidelines relating to the evaluation of contracts.

Avoid placing themselves under any obligation to external individuals or organisations that may influence, or be perceived to influence them, in the performance of their duties.

Accept offers of hospitality and gifts only in cases where it can be readily justified on the basis that by accepting the offer the Council will derive direct benefit from such actions. All offers of hospitality and gifts that are accepted must be entered in the Register of Gifts, Legacies and Hospitality.

(Reviewed June 2014)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Standards Committee
2.	Date:	12th June 2014
3.	Title:	Request for a Dispensation from the Requirements of the Code of Conduct
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

For the Committee to consider the request for a dispensation from Councillor Scholey of Maltby Town Council.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee considers and determines the request for a dispensation.

7. Proposals and Details

Councillor Scholey - Request for dispensation

Councillor P Scholey of Maltby Town Council has requested a dispensation from the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Scholey is currently on the committee of the Town Council which is overseeing bowling greens. Councillor Scholey is also a member of Coronation Parks Retired Persons Bowling Club. This constitutes a personal interest and is disclosed upon Councillor Scholey's Register of Interests.

In these circumstances Councillor Scholey would have to declare his interest at any meeting considering issues connected with the Retired Persons Bowling Club and then proceed to consider whether that interest was of such significance as to warrant withdrawal from the meeting. To enable Councillor Scholey to remain in the meetings, participate and vote the Standards Committee is requested to consider Councillor Scholey's request for a dispensation. The dispensation could be granted either be on the basis that it is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area or that it is otherwise appropriate to grant such a dispensation.

The Committee is requested to consider whether granting a dispensation is appropriate in the circumstances.

8. Finance

9. Risks and Uncertainties

10. Background Papers and Consultation

Contact Name: *Jacqueline Collins, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, telephone 01709 255768 or e-mail jacqueline.collins@rotherham.gov.uk*

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