

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RMBC/2 – Councillor Reg Littleboy

Standards Committee Consideration and Hearing Panel Hearing - 7th May 2009

Summary of main aspects of the Case

Complainant - Sergeant Mark Worrall

Chairman of Panel - Mrs. Angela Bingham

Monitoring Officer - Mr. Tim Mumford

Clerk to the Hearing - Mr. Alan Harston

Time and Venue

The Hearing will take place on 7th May 2009 at 10.30 a.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

Summary of the Complaint

It is alleged that Councillor Littleboy:-

- (a) at a multi-agency site visit in Brinsworth on 20th May 2008 told Sergeant Worrall he was useless and that he was going to have him removed from the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- (b) had, at a Catcliffe Parish Council meeting on 3rd June 2008, stated in Sergeant Worrall's absence that he hated Sergeant Worrall and that he would prefer Sergeant Worrall not to be part of the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Relevant sections of the Code of Conduct

Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified by the Assessment Panel of the Standards Committee were:-

- Treating complainant with lack of respect – paragraph 3(1)
- Bullying – paragraph 3(2)
- Bringing office into disrepute – paragraph 5
- Using office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage for self or another – paragraph 6.

However, the Investigating Officer has found that Councillor Littleboy did not bully Sergeant Worrall and did not use his office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage for himself or another. The findings on these points have been accepted by the Consideration and Hearing Panel.

Findings of fact in the investigation report that are agreed

Most of the findings of fact in the investigator's report are disputed. Submissions of Frances Randle of Steel and Shamash Solicitors on behalf of Councillor Littleboy and of the investigator, John Stone, in response are appended to this summary.

In relation to the allegation that Cllr Littleboy told Sergeant Stone that he was useless and he was going to have him removed, there are no agreed facts. The main facts that are not agreed are:

- whether Cllr Littleboy became angry at the 20th May 2008 multi-agency site meeting to discuss the nuisance caused to nearby residents from youths congregating on St. George's steps during the evening;
- whether he blamed Sergeant Worrall for the apparent inability to deal with the problem and took his anger out on him;
- whether he told Sergeant Worrall that he was bloody useless and that he was going to have him removed from his position as the head of the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team ("the SNT").

In relation to the allegation that during the 4th June 2008 meeting of Catcliffe Parish Council Cllr Littleboy said that he hated Sergeant Worrall and would prefer him not to be part of the SNT, there are no agreed facts. The main facts that are not agreed are:

- whether Cllr Littleboy raised his voice when discussing the performance of the SNT and informed the meeting he had told Sergeant Worrall to his face that he hated him.

Representation

Councillor Littleboy will be represented by Frances Randle of Steel and Shamash Solicitors. The investigator's report will be presented by John Stone.

Witnesses

Councillor Littleboy will give evidence in person and will call Councillor Brian Jolly, Chair of Catcliffe Parish Council and Councillor Darren Hughes, a member of Catcliffe Parish Council and of Rotherham Borough Council.

John Stone will call the complainant, Sergeant Mark Worrall and PCSO Wordsworth.

Procedure

A copy of the Standards Committee's procedure for the conduct of hearings is attached to this summary.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Plunkett', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Date: 22nd April 2009

(Monitoring Officer)