

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Standards Committee
2.	Date:	11th September 2014
3.	Title:	Update from the Monitoring Officer on the Handling of Complaints of Breaches of the Code of Conduct
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.

The following complaints have been received by the Monitoring Officer and dealt with in the following way:-

1. A complaint with regard to a member of Anston Parish Council, that the member's conduct had been disdainful and threatening.

Following consultation with the independent person, Phillip Beavers, the matter has been referred to formal resolution, with the other issues arising from Anston Parish Council.

2. A complaint that a member of Anston Parish Council has disclosed confidential information, in breach of the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

This complaint has been forwarded to the member concerned, who has been asked to provide written comments. Following the receipt of those comments the Monitoring Officer will consider whether the matter should be referred by a sub-committee of the Standards Committee for a formal investigation.

3. A complaint concerning a borough councillor, of misconduct in public office.

The Monitoring Officer asked for further information from the complainant on 14th July and no further details have been received. The Monitoring Officer proposes that this matter should now be closed and the complainant informed accordingly.

4. A complaint that a member of Anston Parish Council had incorrectly taken the Chair at the meeting.

Following correspondence with the complainant, the Monitoring Officer was satisfied that this complaint did not fall within the remit of the Code of Conduct as a potential breach of the Code of Conduct.

5. A complaint that an Anston Parish Councillor had behaved in a way to bring the office of councillor into disrepute, failed to declare an interest improperly conferred an advantage on a friend.

This matter has been referred to the Councillor concerned for written comments, following which the Monitoring Officer will form a view as to whether this matter should be considered by a sub-committee of the Standards Committee as to consider a formal investigation is required.

6. A complaint that a member of Anston Parish Council was involved in offensive and potentially defamatory conduct.

This matter has been referred to the Councillor involved for written comments, prior to the Monitoring Officer determining whether this should be referred to a sub-committee of the Standards Committee to consider whether a formal investigation is required.

8. Finance

None

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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