



<u>Committee and date</u> Standards Committee
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<u>Item No</u>
Public

Code of Conduct Complaint - ref SC13/09

Responsible Officer Graham White

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Summary

The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) considered, on 26 April 2010, the report of the Ethical Standards Officer into the alleged conduct of Councillor Paul Andrews, of Shropshire Council.

Recommendations

- A. That the report be noted
- B. That members of the Committee consider any learning points arising from the report.

Report

1. The Assessment Sub Committee, on 11 August 2009, referred a complaint to the Monitoring Officer for investigation in relation to the alleged conduct of Councillor Paul Andrews of Shropshire Council in accordance with Section 57A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000..
2. The Investigating Officer, appointed by the Monitoring Officer, concluded that Councillor Andrews had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of Shropshire Council. The report was referred to the Standards Committee for determination.
3. The Hearing Sub Committee considered the report of the Investigating Officer on 01 December 2010. It was decided that the matter should be referred to the First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in

England) (formerly, the Adjudication Panel for England) for determination on the grounds that the allegations were so serious that if proven, the Standards Committee would not have the jurisdiction to deal with the complaint.

4. The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) considered, on 26 April 2010, the referral from the Hearing Sub Committee. It was decided that Councillor Andrews had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of Shropshire Council and that he should be suspended for a period of 6 months. He was also required to provide a written apology to the complainant within 14 days of the hearing and to undertake a further period of training before resuming his duties.
5. A copy of the written reasons for the decision of The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) is attached at appendix A.
6. Councillor Andrews subsequently decided to resign from his position as a Councillor for the Clee division of Shropshire Council. An election has been called and is due to be contested on 01 July 2010.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Report of the Investigation Officer

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

The content of the report is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment.

Risk Management Appraisal

N/A

Community / Consultations Appraisal

N/A

Cabinet Member

N/A

Local Member

N/A

Appendices

Written reasons for the decision of The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England)