



<u>Committee and date</u> Standards Committee
08 July 2009
4.00 p.m.

<u>Item</u> 5
Public

<u>Paper</u> C

Other Action

Responsible Officer Claire Porter

Email: claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01743 252763

Summary

In the event that the Assessment Sub Committee directs the Monitoring Officer to take "Other Action," he/she is required to report the outcome of that other action to the Committee.

The Assessment Sub Committees of both Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and Bridgnorth District Council directed their Monitoring Officers to take other action in relation to allegations they had received. This was completed prior to 31 March 2009.

Recommendations

- A. That the report on other action taken by the Monitoring Officers of both Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and Bridgnorth District Council be noted.

Report

1. Following receipt of an allegation that a member of a Council has failed to comply with that Authority's Code of Conduct, the Assessment Sub Committee of the Principal Authority must consider how best to deal with the allegation.
2. One of the options available to the Sub Committee is a direction to the Monitoring Officer to take "Other Action." This can be in the form of additional training, mediation, conciliation or any other steps which might seem appropriate.
3. The Assessment Sub Committee of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council on 10 February 2009, following consideration of a complaint that a member of Astley Parish Council may have failed to comply with its code of conduct, directed its Monitoring officer to provide training on the code of conduct with particular emphasis on personal and prejudicial interests, for all members of the Parish Council.

4. The training was delivered by the Monitoring Officer of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council immediately prior to the meeting of the Parish Council which was held on 18 March 2009.
5. The training was received very well with all members of the Parish Council and its Clerk in attendance. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss examples which may have caused some concern. At the end of the session, the members indicated that they had found it very useful and that they felt that they had a better understanding of the issues dealt with by the code.
6. The Assessment Sub Committee of Bridgnorth District Council on 9 December 2008, following consideration of a complaint that a member of Bridgnorth Town Council may have failed to comply with its code of conduct, directed its Monitoring officer to request that the member in respect of whom the complaint had been made familiarise himself with the policies and procedures of the Town Council.
7. The member in respect of whom the complaint had been made subsequently confirmed to the Monitoring Officer that he had familiarised himself with the policies and procedures of Bridgnorth Town Council.
8. The Assessment Sub Committee of Bridgnorth District Council on 15 July 2008, following consideration of a complaint that a member of Bridgnorth Town Council may have failed to comply with its code of conduct, decided that no further action was required.
9. The complainants requested a review of that decision and the Review sub committee, which met on 25 September 2008 directed its Monitoring officer to provide training on the code of conduct for all members of the Parish Council.
10. 10 of the 16 members of the Town Council attended the training which was subsequently arranged along with their Clerk. Many of those in attendance indicated that they had found the training useful.

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

Decision Notices

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The contents of this report are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

These proposals will have no significant impact on the environment

Risk Management Appraisal

Inadequate training provision may reduce the capacity of members to carry out their roles effectively

Community / Consultations Appraisal

N/A

Cabinet Member

N/A

Local Member

All

Appendices

N/A