



Committee and date
Standards Committee

26 January 2011

4.00 p.m.

Item No

Public

OTHER ACTION

Responsible Officer Claire Porter

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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-Committee of the Standards Committee directed the Monitoring Officer to take other action in relation to a number of allegations that had been received.

Recommendations

- A. That the report on other action taken by the Monitoring Officer 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.

Whitchurch Rural Parish Council

3. The Assessment Sub-Committee on 06 July 2010, following consideration of complaints that members of Whitchurch Rural Parish Council may have failed to comply with its code of conduct, directed the Monitoring Officer to make training available to all members and the Clerk on the Law and Procedures for Parish Councils.
4. All members of the Parish Council were invited to attend a training session arranged by the Association of Local Councils and held on 21 September 2010 on the Law and Procedure for Parish Councils. Regrettably, only 1 member was able to attend.
5. A Training session on the Code of Conduct had been arranged to be held on 30 September 2010 to which all members of a number of Parish Councils, including Whitchurch Rural Parish Council were invited to attend. The chairman of the Parish Council indicated that all members of the Parish Council planned to attend the session which was to be run by the monitoring Officer and her staff. Prior to the training event, in light of the announcement that the Standards regime was to be abolished the training session was postponed.

Church Stretton Town Council

6. The Assessment Sub-Committee on 20 July 2010, following consideration of complaints that three members of Church Stretton Town Council may have failed to comply with its code of conduct, decided that no further action was necessary.
7. The complainant requested that the decision be reviewed and the Review Sub Committee directed that the Monitoring Officer provide training for one member of the Town Council.
8. The training was delivered by the Solicitor (Standards and Ethics) in Church Stretton on 23 November 2010.
9. The training was received very well and the opportunity taken to ask questions and discuss examples which may have caused some concern. At the end of the session, the Councillor concerned indicated that he had found it very useful and felt that it clarified some issues dealt with by the code.

Hordley Parish Council

10. The Assessment Sub-Committee on 20 July 2009, following consideration of a complaint that a member of Hordley Parish Council may have failed to comply with its code of conduct, directed the Monitoring Officer to provide training on the code of conduct in order to clarify the Councillors responsibilities under the Code of Conduct
11. The Councillor was invited to a training session at the Councils offices in Oswestry which was held on 15 September 2010.

12. The Councillor made contact by telephone to indicate that he worked long hours and did not typically finish work until 6.30pm so would be unable to attend. During the telephone conversation with the Solicitor (Standards and Ethics) it was explained that he needed to declare an interest if it might affect someone other than himself (a close associate) or his employer. The Councillor indicated that he had previously not been aware that this was the case.

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