



Committee and date  
Standards Committee

Item No

Public

## Code of Conduct Complaint - ref OBC PAC3

**Responsible Officer** Graham White

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### Summary

The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) considered, on 18 April and 19 May 2010, the report of the Ethical Standards Officer into the alleged conduct of Councillor Peter Brown, of West Felton Parish 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 29 April 2009, referred a complaint for investigation by Standards for England in relation to the alleged conduct of Councillor Brown of West Felton Parish Council in accordance with Section 57A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2000. It considered that the allegations were so serious that if proven, the Standards Committee would not have the jurisdiction to deal with the complaint.
2. Standards for England, on 28 May 2009, accepted the referral and appointed one of its Ethical Standards Officers to carry out the investigation.

3. As a result of the investigation, the Ethical Standards Officer concluded that Councillor Brown had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of West Felton Parish Council. The report was referred back to the Standards Committee for determination.
4. The Hearing Sub Committee considered the report of the Ethical Standards Officer on 01 and 16 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.
5. The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) considered, on 18 April and 19 May 2010, the referral from the Hearing Sub Committee. It was decided that Councillor Brown had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of West Felton Parish Council and that he should be suspended for a period of 6 months
6. A copy of the written reasons for the decision of The First Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) is attached at appendix A.

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

Standards for England investigation report

**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**

Councillor Charmley

**Appendices**

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