

Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	29 September 2014
Title	Allegations against members
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to present information to the Committee regarding formal complaints made against members. The report is based on information received from the Ombudsman and the case references are his.

2. Complaints

2.1 Case No.201300346

Date received: 23/04/13

Complaint

That a county councillor had secretly filmed and recorded a conversation and then put it on his Facebook page.

Decision

Member suspended for 2 months by Standards Committee.

2.2 Case No.201301307

Date received: 06/06/13

Complaint

That a county councillor had behaved in a threatening manner towards the complainant.

Decision

Member suspended for 2 months by Standards Committee.

2.3 Case No. 4414/201301916

Date received: (arose from investigation into 2.1 above)

Complaint

The Ombudsman has decided to investigate matters that came to his attention as part of the investigation into another complaint against the councillor (para 2.1 above):

- Bringing his office as councillor or the authority into disrepute
- Conflict between the councillor's business interests and his role as councillor and misuse of his position as councillor
- Attending a meeting where a conflict of interests could arise ,contrary to the Monitoring Officer's advice
- Behaviour towards member of the public contrary to Code of Conduct
- Failure to update registration of personal interests

Decision

Investigation discontinued as the evidence was not sufficiently conclusive to enable the Ombudsman to reach a firm view on the breaches of the code.

2.4 Case No. 201301629

Date received: 17/06/13

Complaint

That a town councillor had failed to declare an interest at a meeting of the council.

Decision

Member suspended for three months by Standards Committee.

2.5 Case No. 6141/201400682

Date received: 29/04/14

Complaint

Complaint by fellow member that a town councillor had misused his position for financial gain.

Decision

Ombudsman investigating aspects of complaint.

2.6 Case No. 6180/201400801

Date received: 15/05/14

Complaint

Complaint by member of the public that a county councillor had denied using certain words in a conversation.

Decision

No investigation – member not acting as a councillor at the time.

2.7 Case No. 6397/201401427

Date received: 02/06/14

Complaint

Complaint by member of the public that a town councillor had behaved in an offensive manner.

Decision

No investigation. The alleged comments were not offensive in the Ombudsman's view and would not, if proven, be serious enough to constitute a breach of the code.

2.8 Case No. 201402810

Date received: 28/07/14

Complaint

Member had sent an e-mail to a local organisation, purporting to express the community council's views, without its authorisation.

Decision

Referred to Monitoring Officer for investigation.

2.9 Case No. 201403279

Date received: 14/08/14

Complaint

Complaint by member of the public that a county councillor had breached a number of the code's principles in dealing with a local matter.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.10 Case No. 5847/201402641 & 201402642 & 201403463

Date received: 18/07/14

Complaint

Complaint by a town councillor that three of his fellow members had failed to declare an interest.

Decision

Investigation.

2.11 Case No. 6769/201402621

Date received: 18/07/14

Complaint

Complaint by a town councillor that a fellow member had behaved in an inappropriate manner.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.12 Case No. 6141/201400940

Date received: 27/05/14

Complaint

Complaint regarding a town councillor's conduct.

Decision

No investigation – insufficient information submitted.

3. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the information.