

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

8 June 2011

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Corporate Services) / Legal and Democratic Services Manager

LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS, HEARINGS AND REFERENCES MADE TO STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND

Purpose

1. To update members on local investigations and hearings.
2. On 10 December 2008 the Standards Committee resolved that cases in which no breach of the Code of Conduct has been found or no further action is to be taken should be anonymised for the purposes of reporting back to the Committee and that only in cases where a breach has been found should the relevant member be identified to the Committee.

Recommendations

3. That the Standards Committee note the report.

Cases

4. **CORCOM 4496 (Standards Committee Local Assessment Panel, 4 April 2011)**
The Monitoring Officer received this allegation about a parish councillor on 18 March 2011. The Local Assessment Panel determined not to take any further action. The complainant appealed the decision on 21 April 2011 and the Local Review Panel is scheduled to meet on 8 June 2011 following the Standards Committee meeting. An update will be provided to the Standards Committee at its 14 September 2011 meeting.
5. **CORCOM 4498, 4510 and 4523 (Standards Committee Local Assessment Panel, 4 April 2011 and 15 April 2011)**
Three related allegations about parish councillors at one authority were received in late March and early April 2011. Due to the complexities of the matter and the potential for apparent conflicts of interest if the District Council undertook any investigative role, the Local Assessment Panel referred all three to Standards for England. Standards for England determined to take no action on two of the allegations and is investigating the third. The Ethical Standards Officer's report will be presented to the Standards Committee Local Hearings Panel at a later date.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Local Assessment Panel Decision Notices
Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003
Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008
SCDC Constitution

Contact Officer: Holly Adams – Democratic Services Team Leader
Telephone: (01954) 713030