

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

20th September 2013

AUTHOR/S: Monitoring Officer

UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

Purpose

1. To update members on complaints cases regarding alleged breaches of the code of conduct.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Civic Affairs Committee **note** the progress of outstanding complaints.

3. **New complaint cases/cases outstanding at 11th September 2013**

- (a) **CORCOM 659**

A complaint has been made by a business about a parish councillor in relation to the handling of a planning application. Responses are currently awaited before the evidence will be considered by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person so that a decision on how to proceed can be taken

- (b) **CORCOM 346**

This complaint was made by a parish councillor about a district councillor. The complainant alleges a number of breaches of the code of conduct. Correspondence has been taking place between the parties via the Monitoring Officer in relation to this complaint. A connected complaint has been made to the Information Commissioner and the complainant wishes to await the outcome of this before proceeding with the conduct complaint. The council is currently still in correspondence with the Information Commissioner regarding the related complaint.

- (c) **CORCOM 574**

The complaint was made by a district councillor about two other district councillors in relation to the publication of a party political leaflet. Representations from both parties are currently being considered by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person before a decision on how to proceed can be taken.

- (d) **CORCOM 575**

The complaint was made by a district councillor about two other district councillors in relation to a matter concerning assistance to a parish council. Further responses are still awaited before the evidence will be considered by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person so that a decision on how to proceed can be taken.

4. **Other complaints**

The Monitoring Officer is continuing to advise a number of parish councils in relation to on-going conduct-related issues.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Localism Act 2011
SCDC Code of Conduct Complaints procedures

Contact Officer: Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713027