

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

17th December 2012

AUTHOR/S: Monitoring Officer

UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

Purpose

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

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

3. **Complaint cases outstanding at 7th December 2012**

- (a) **CORCOM 221**

This complaint was made by a member of public (a former parish councillor) about a district councillor. The complainant alleges a number of breaches of the code of conduct. The Monitoring Officer and Independent Person are awaiting further information from the complainant in response to a rebuttal by the councillor before being able to proceed.

- (b) **CORCOM 45 & 46**

This complaint was made by two members of the public about a district councillor/parish councillor regarding the councillor's participation in meetings at both parish and district level, related to their planning application. The complainant alleges a number of breaches of the code of conduct. Correspondence has taken place via the Monitoring Officer between the complainants and the councillor concerned to try to establish a clear picture of what has occurred. The ability to consider both sides of a complaint is a feature of new complaints system which will hopefully arrive at a more rounded view of events before a decision is taken about how to proceed but can take some time to progress. Final assessment on whether an investigation is necessary will be made very shortly by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person.

- (c) **CORCOM 194**

This complaint was made by was made by a member of the public about two district councillors on the council's planning committee in relation to the 4th July 2012 planning committee meeting. The complainant alleges a number of breaches of the code of conduct. The complaint has been assessed by the

Monitoring Officer and Independent Person and the parties will be notified of the outcome shortly.

4. New complaints since September 2012

A large number of complaints (more than 150) have been received by the Monitoring Officer in relation to a forthcoming controversial Council decision and the conduct of two members involved in that process. These are currently being processed by the Council and the Monitoring Officer is awaiting a further decision from the majority of the complainants about how they wish their complaints to be handled.

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

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