

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

14th March 2013

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 concluded since last meeting:**

- (a) **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 alleged a number of breaches of the code of conduct. Following assessment by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person it was concluded that the councillor did not breach the code of conduct.

- (b) **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 it was concluded that neither councillor had breached the code of conduct.

4. **Complaint cases outstanding at 5th March 2013**

- (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 still awaiting further information from the complainant in response to a rebuttal by the councillor before being able to proceed.

- (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. A response has been received to the complaint from the district councillor and

the Monitoring officer is awaiting confirmation from the complainant on whether it is considered that the complaint should progress further.

5. Other complaints

A large number of complaints were received by the Monitoring Officer in November 2012 in relation to a forthcoming controversial Council decision and the conduct of members involved in that process. Following further contact with the complainants these complaints will not now be progressed.

The Monitoring Officer has informally resolved a complaint from two county council officers about a district councillor with no further action deemed necessary.

The Monitoring Officer is currently advising in relation to on-going conduct-related issues at two parish councils.

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

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