

## LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS – ANNUAL SUMMARY 2013/14

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Standards Committee receives an annual summary of local investigations and determinations. A summary of matters dealt with between April 2013 and March 2014 is appended.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to receive the annual summary of local investigations and determinations for the 2013/14 municipal year.

Albert Bugeja

Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services

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### Background Papers:-

None.

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**ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
STANDARDS COMPLAINTS**

April 2013 – to – March 2014

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
1	SC0013/13	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2013  Parish Councillor  <i>(N.B. Complaint received after annual report to Standards Committee on 12/13 cases)</i>	District Councillor	Bringing the Authority into disrepute - Para. 3(e)	Inappropriate conduct at a Parish Council Meeting.  Advice provided with a view to determining matter through informal resolution.  No further action pending submission of formal complaint.	Case completed on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2013.
2	SC0014/13	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2013  Member of the Public	District Councillor	Using the Authority's resources improperly for political purposes – Para. 5(b) (ii)	Misusing an official email address for political purposes  No breach of the code, as the Council does not have a policy that specifically governs the issue, therefore a breach of the code does not arise.	Case completed on 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
3	SC0015/13	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2013  Parish Councillor	District Councillor	Bringing the Authority into disrepute - Para. 3(e)	Inappropriate conduct at a Parish Council Meeting.  Matter appropriately dealt with by local resolution through the Parish Council's own procedures.	No further action.  Case completed on 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**APPENDIX**

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
4	SC0016/13	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2013  Parish Councillor  <i>(Arising from same incident as in No. 1 above).</i>	District Councillor	Bringing the Authority into disrepute - Para. 3(e)	Inappropriate conduct at a Parish Council Meeting.  Matter appropriately dealt with by local resolution through the Parish Council's own procedures	No further action.  Case completed on 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2013.
5	SC0017/13	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2013  Essex Police	Town Councillor	Bringing the Authority into disrepute - Para. 3(e)	Email communications using intemperate language.  Matter referred to Town Council for local determination under new arrangements.	Resolved locally, training need identified and arranged.  Case completed 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2013.
6	SC0018/13	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2013  Member of the Public	District Councillor	Bringing the Authority into disrepute - Para. 3(e)	Behaviour perceived as officious and inappropriate.  Complaint dealt with through informal resolution.	Satisfactorily concluded.  Case completed 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2013.
7	SC0019/13	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2013  District Councillor	District Councillor	Bringing the Authority into disrepute - Para. 3(e)	Inappropriate and biased comments during a Council meeting.  Matter resolved through informal resolution. Councillor withdrew from Development Committee until mandatory training completed.	Case completed on 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2013.

**APPENDIX**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Complaint Reference</b>	<b>Date of Complaint and Complainant</b>	<b>Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor</b>	<b>Relevant Section of the Code</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
8	SC0020/13	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 District Councillor	District Councillor	Bullying – Para. 3 (3) (b)	Inappropriate behaviour.  Matter determined to be within the party political arena rather than the business of the Council and therefore not subject to the code.	Case completed on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2013.