
LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2018

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Standards Committee receives a summary of complaints and queries received in relation to Members' behaviour under the Code of Conduct.

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Committee on 26 June 2018 resolved that, with effect from the current municipal year, a twice yearly report be made to the Committee detailing all complaints and queries that had been received by the Monitoring Officer, including those that were progressed to formal investigation and those that had been reported but resolved informally or where advice had been given to the complainant.
- 2.2 A summary of the matters received formally and informally between April and September 2018 is appended.

3 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as no decision is being made.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the summary of complaints and determinations for the period April to September 2018 be received.



Angela Law

Assistant Director, Legal Services/Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Angela Law (Assistant Director, Legal Services/Monitoring Officer) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
STANDARDS COMPLAINTS AND QUERIES**

April 2018 – September 2018

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
1	SC0050/18	30 April 2018 Member of the Public	Parish Councillor	3(3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute	Allegation of making false statements and breach of Purdah	No breach. Code of conduct is not intended to stand in the way of lively and robust debate. No breach of Purdah.
2	SC0051/18	5 May 2018 District Councillor	Parish Councillor	3(3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute	Allegation that Councillor has brought the Parish Council into disrepute by holding a surgery in the local Library during election period.	No breach – Councillor not acting in their official capacity as a Parish Council. Acting in their political capacity for their party group.
3	SC0052/18	8 May 2018 District Councillor	District Councillor	No section identified – considered under the General Obligations of Members Code of Conduct	Wording used in election campaign leaflet.	No action taken following initial review. Member has a right to reply during an election campaign

APPENDIX

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
4	SC0053/18	14 May 2018 District Councillor	District Councillor	3(3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute	Allegation of acting improperly and in bad faith during election period in connection with use of council resources	No breach. No evidence to support there has been any improper conduct and acting in bad faith.
5	SC0054/18	19 July 2018 Town Councillor	District Councillor	3(3)(b) You must not bully any person 5 (a) You must not use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure yourself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage	Allegation of improper behaviour at an event	No breach. Lack of corroborating evidence and misunderstanding of protocols. Advice with regards to the proper protocols given to complainant.
6	SS0055/18 Query	08 August 2018 Member of the Public	Parish Councillor		Allegation of threatening behaviour and seeking to take advantage of their position Possible breaches: 3(3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute 3(3)(b) You must not bully any	Advised that the complaint should be submitted to MO 03/09/18 – complainant does not want to lodge formal complaint but seeking an apology. Advice given to PC to speak to Cllr informally.

APPENDIX

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
					person 5 (a) You must not use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure yourself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage	
8	SC0056/18 Query	20 August 2018 Member of the public	Parish Councillor		Allegation of abusive behaviour and misuse of position as a Parish Councillor Possible breaches: 3(3)(b) You must not bully any person 5 (a) You must not use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure yourself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage	No formal complaint has been submitted to MO. Advice given to Clerk to speak to Cllr and see if they will apologise. Also to advise the member of public that if they wish to submit a formal complaint details can be found on RDC website.