

LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS – ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014/15

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Standards Committee receives an annual summary of local investigations and determinations. A summary of matters dealt with between April 2014 and March 2015 is appended.

2 RECOMMENDATION

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

That the annual summary of local investigations and determinations for the 2014/15 Municipal Year be received.



Angela Law

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Background Papers:-

None.

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

April 2014 – March 2015

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
1	SC0021/14	28 March 2014 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(e)	Inappropriate comments at Development Control meeting of the Council on 27 March 2014.	Officers' views sought who were in attendance at Committee. Independent Person's view sought and received. No evidence of breach. Final letter to complainant on 9.6.14. Closed: 9 June 2014.
2	SC0022/14	2 April 2014 District Councillor (Anonymous)	District Councillor	Paragraph 9.1	Allegation of further non-disclosure of a close political relationship with a landowner associated with land considered in the Core Strategy/Allocation of Sites documents.	Monitoring Officer decided not to accept an anonymous complaint. No further action. Closed: 8 April 2014
3	SC0022A/14	9 April 2014 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 9.1	Allegation of non-disclosure of a close political relationship with a landowner associated with land considered in the Core	Complaint not valid as it does not provide any facts to evidence of breach.

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					Strategy/Allocation of Sites documents.	Closed: 17 April 2014
4	SC0022B/14	25 April 2014 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 9.1	Allegation of non-disclosure of a close political relationship with a landowner associated with land considered in the Core Strategy/Allocation of Sites documents.	No evidence of close personal relationship. Closed: 16 May 2014
5	SC0023	5 May 2014 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 9.1	Allegation of non-disclosure of a close political relationship with a landowner associated with land considered in the Core Strategy/Allocation of Sites documents.	No evidence of close personal relationship. Closed: 16 May 2014
6	SC0024	8 May 2014 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(b)	Allegation of bullying and attempting to gain an advantage over complainant as a Councillor and Portfolio Holder.	No breach of code. Closed: 18 June 2014
7	SC0025/A/B/C	8 May 2014 District Councillor <i>4 complaints</i>	District Councillor <i>4 in total</i>	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Attempting to bring the Review Committee into disrepute by using it to try and obtain goods or services for an organisation that he/she represents.	Interests appropriately declared and no irregularity in the review process. No breach of code. Closed: 10 July 2014

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8	SC0026	9 June 2014 Member of the Public	Parish Councillor	Paragraph 9.1	Alleged conflict of interest and failure to disclose an interest relating to a Bridleway Order.	No breach of code. Final letter sent on 8 January 2015 Monitoring Officer met with Parish Councillor and Clerk on 26/01/15. Closed: 26 January 2015
9	SC0027	24 October 2014 Member of the Public	Parish Council	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Parish Council conducting business in private and failing to comply with procedural rules.	Isolated incident, Parish Council took action to rectify the situation. No action taken. Closed: 30 October 2014
10	SC0028	5 December 2014 Member of the Public	Parish Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Conduct of Parish Councillor in preventing the public's right to record meeting.	Outgoing MO met with the complainants and subjects of complaint in a mediation fashion. MO provided some guidance and advice. Files SC0028 through to SC0031 and SC0033 through to SC0034

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						Closed: 24 February 2015
11	SC0029	5 December 2014 Parish Councillor	Parish Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Conduct of Parish Councillors in preventing recording of meeting.	Outgoing MO met with the complainants and subjects of complaint in a mediation fashion. MO provided some guidance and advice. Files SC0028 through to SC0031 and SC0033 through to SC0034 Closed: 24 February 2015
12	SC0030	10 December 2014 Parish Councillor	Parish Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(b)	Bullying and failing to treat others with respect.	Outgoing MO met with the complainants and subjects of complaint in a mediation fashion. MO provided some guidance and advice. Files SC0028 through to SC0031 and SC0033 through to SC0034

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						Closed: 24 February 2015
13	SC0031	19 December 2014 Member of the Public	Parish Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Bringing the Authority into disrepute.	Outgoing MO met with the complainants and subjects of complaint in a mediation fashion. MO provided some guidance and advice. Files SC0028 through to SC0031 and SC0033 through to SC0034 Closed: 24 February 2015
14	SC0032	20 December 2014 Parish Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Conduct at Parish meeting and bringing office into disrepute.	Code does not apply to Council Members unless they are acting in an official capacity which does not appear to be the case in this instance. Closed: 20 January 2015
15	SC0033	6 January 2015	Parish Councillors	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Conduct at Parish meeting and bringing office into disrepute.	Outgoing MO met with the complainants and

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		Parish Councillor				<p>subjects of complaint in a mediation fashion.</p> <p>MO provided some guidance and advice.</p> <p>Files SC0028 through to SC0031 and SC0033 through to SC0034</p> <p>Closed: 24 February 2015</p>
16	SC0034	6 January 2015 Parish Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Conduct at Parish meeting and bringing office into disrepute.	<p>Outgoing MO met with the complainants and subjects of complaint in a mediation fashion.</p> <p>MO provided some guidance and advice.</p> <p>Files SC0028 through to SC0031 and SC0033 through to SC0034</p> <p>Closed: 24 February 2015</p>
17	SC0035	27 February 2015	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(b)	Councillor behaved in a	Matter under

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		District Councillor			threatening and bullying manner.	investigation.
18	SC0036	16 February 2015 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Disrespectful public statements.	No breach of the code. Not acting in official capacity. Closed: 13 March 2015
19	SC0037	28 February 2015 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 9.1	Failure to disclose interests.	No breach of code. Understanding and appreciation of the code and rules can be addressed through training. Closed: 2 April 2015
20	SC0038	4 March 2015 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Derogatory remarks at Council meeting.	Subject of complaint is no longer a District Councillor. Complaint is set aside Closed: 13 May 2015
21	SC0039	4 March 2015 District Councillor	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)(e)	Failure to discharge responsibilities of office and bringing Authority into disrepute.	Subject of complaint is no longer a District Councillor. Complaint is set aside

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint and Complainant	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
						Closed: 13 May 2015
22	SC0040	15 May 2015	District Councillor	Paragraph 3(3)€	Conduct at public event and bringing Authority into disrepute.	Ongoing.