

Standards Committee – 5 October 2015

Update on current national cases

Summary of report:

To provide an update on standards cases of interest .

Recommendation:

1. That the report and appendices be noted.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Since abolition of the Standards Board for England it has been difficult to compile information about cases that have been determined under localised codes of conduct. The Standards Board for England used to produce an annual case review that shared nationally the standards board for England is experience of conducting investigations, giving legal advice and developing policy in relation to what was then a national code of conduct
- 1.2 At Appendix 1 I have included a summary of the case of Councillor Spencer Flower who remains as far as I am aware the only councillor to be convicted of failing to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest in a meeting.
- 1.3 Appendix 2 is a report of a Independent Investigator who looked at an alleged breach of the code of conduct in Brent. I have included this because it contains an interesting analysis of the difficulties of determining when a member is acting in their official capacity.
- 1.4 Appendix 3 is a report of a case from Cornwall which again emphasises elected members own concerns over their inability to suspend elected members from office where they have been found to have breached the code of conduct.

Background papers:

None.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 2.1 None

3.0 Resource and legal considerations:

3.1 None

4.0 Performance and Risk Management issues:

4.1 The analysis of various cases will improve knowledge and thereby assist with decision making.

5.0 Equality Implications:

5.1 In maintaining up to date policies and procedures the council will ensure that services are delivered fairly in an open and transparent manner. There are specific requirements in both codes that elected members and officers observe equalities. It is important that complaints are dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.

6.0 Consultation:

6.1 No consultation is required

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