

Committee :	Standards Committee
Date :	11 October 2010
Title :	Allegations made against councillors
Author :	Monitoring Officer
Action :	For information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to inform members of developments, since my previous report, regarding allegations against councillors.

2. Decisions

Case 200802179

Allegation of failure to show respect and bullying (paragraph 4(a) & (b)).

The Ombudsman decided not to continue with his investigation.

Case 200802180

Allegation of failure to show respect and bullying (paragraph 4(a) & (b)).

The Ombudsman decided not to continue with his investigation.

Case 200900808

Complaint of bringing the councillor's office or authority into disrepute (para.6 (1) (a)).

The Ombudsman investigated the complaint and issued a report even though the incident in question was unconnected with the council's work. This is because paragraph 6(1) (a) applies to a councillor at all times and in any capacity. After further consideration however the Ombudsman came to the view that the incident predated the 2008 Code of Conduct and therefore did not engage the new code. He therefore withdrew his report from the Panel.

Case 2402/200901904

Complaint of bringing the councillor's office or authority into disrepute (para.6(1) (a))

The Ombudsman decided not to continue with his investigation.

Cases 2665/201001151 & 2665/201001152

The complainant complained about the way in which the members conducted a meeting of a local trust where they represented the town council. The Ombudsman was however unable to identify any prima facie evidence that the matters alleged represented or were strongly suggestive of a significant breach of the code of conduct. There were also alleged procedural irregularities but even if proved they did not represent any obvious breach of the code of conduct. The Ombudsman decided not to investigate.

Outstanding Allegations

3. We are aware of 1 case that is currently open:

Case 200901550

Complaint of bringing the councillor's office or authority into disrepute (para.6(1) (a))

The Ombudsman's investigation is continuing.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note this report for information.