

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

FINDINGS OF ETHICAL STANDARDS OFFICER IN RESPECT OF COMPLAINT 3/2010

7th October 2010

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to consider the investigation reports of the Ethical Standards Officer in respect of complaint 3/2010

This report is public but the appendices are confidential by virtue of Section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the findings of the Ethical Standards Officer (ESO) be noted.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As Members will be aware, complaint 3/2010 about six members of Morecambe Town Council was referred by the Assessment Sub-Committee to Standards for England in April 2010. Standards for England accepted the referral, and the final reports of the ESO were issued in August 2010, with findings of no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. Standards for England published a case summary with these findings.

1.2 The detailed investigation reports are confidential, and copies were sent by the ESO to the complainant, the members complained of, the clerk to the Town Council and to the Monitoring Officer. In addition, in her reports the ESO indicated that she was providing copies to the Standards Committee on the basis that this would assist the Committee in the discharge of its functions.

1.3 Copies of the reports have therefore been circulated to the members of the Committee. The Monitoring Officer would remind Members of the confidential nature of the reports, and the fact that they are provided to Members for the purposes of discussion at this meeting only.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 This meeting provides the Committee with the opportunity to discuss the reports, to understand the approach taken by the ESO in conducting the investigation and reaching her findings, and to consider whether there are any lessons to be learned for the Committee with regard to the exercise of its functions in promoting high standards of conduct and arranging training for members.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)	
None arising from this report.	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	
None directly arising from this report.	
SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS	
The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
None directly arising from this report.	
MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS	
The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as adviser to the Standards Committee.	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Mrs S Taylor Telephone: 01524 582025 E-mail: STaylor@lancaster.gov.uk Ref:
The background papers are confidential by virtue of Section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972	