

**Meeting of:** STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Date:** 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005

**Report of:** CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CENTRAL SERVICES)

**Reference:** CDCS

**Title:** STANDARDS BOARD CASE REFERRALS 2005/06

### **PUBLIC/EXEMPT ITEM**

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update the Committee on both the national and local position of the Standards Board workload.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the report be noted.**

### **REPORT**

- 1.1 In 2004/05 the total number of allegations received by the Standard Board was 3,861.
- 1.2 The statistics of the Standards Board caseload for the first month of this year are now available, and show that a total of 306 cases have been referred to the Standards Board. This is an 8% decrease on the same period from last year. 24% of the complaints have been referred for investigation.

An analysis of the allegations for 2005/06 is attached as **Appendix A**.

50% of allegations received were in respect of Parish Councils and 21% in respect of District Councils. 62% of the allegations were from members of the public and 33% from councillors.

- 1.3 An analysis of the nature of the allegations investigated shows that the most common areas for complaint concern –

Prejudicial interest (22%)  
Failure to disclose personal interests (19%)  
Bringing authority into disrepute (18%)  
Using position to confer or secure an advantage or disadvantage (16%)

- 1.4 Of those cases that have been investigated so far this year, only 9%, or 28 cases, had been referred to the Adjudication Panel, 180 required no further action, there

was no evidence of a breach in 61 cases, and only 37 had been referred back to the Monitoring Officer.

## 2 LOCAL POSITION

2.1 Locally, I can confirm that the Standards Board have received a total of 33 allegations of misconduct in respect of City and Parish Councillors. A summary of the position is set out below.

	City	Parish
Allegations Received	24	9
Proceed to Investigation	15	6
Resolved to Date	15	6
- No breach	9	--
- Breach but No Action Required	5	6
- Breach Referred to Adjudication Panel	1	--

2.2 Currently there are no cases being investigated by Ethical Standards Officers.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report.

### SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted. There are no legal implications.

### MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has prepared the report.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.